

Discussion Questions for Acts 8:1-25

1. Read Acts 8:1-3
 - a. What emotions do you think the early Christians experienced when they were forced to scatter due to persecution in Jerusalem? Can you relate to any of these feelings in your own life?
 - b. While this will be more completely explored in Acts 9, reflecting on Saul's actions in these verses, have you ever been tempted to participate in delivering persecution towards those with different beliefs? What can we learn from Saul's experience?
 - c. Reflect on moments when you felt called to stand up for your faith in the face of opposition or persecution. What motivated you to take a stand, and how did you rely on God's strength and guidance during those challenging times?

2. Read Acts 8:4-8

- a. Reflecting on Philip's journey to Samaria, what are some barriers or challenges that might prevent us from sharing the gospel with others outside our familiar circles? How can we overcome these obstacles and step out in obedience to God's call to proclaim Christ?
- b. The response of the Samaritans to Philip's preaching was marked by attentive listening and joyful reception of the gospel message. How can we cultivate a similar eagerness to hear and respond to God's word in our own lives? What practices or attitudes can help us remain open to God's work and receptive to his truth?
- c. The miraculous healings and deliverances that accompanied Philip's ministry in Samaria testify to the transformative power of the gospel to bring hope, healing, and joy. In what ways have you personally experienced or witnessed the transformative impact of the gospel message? How does this motivate you to share the good news with others and participate in God's redemptive work in the world?

3. Read Acts 8:9-13

- a. Reflecting on Simon's initial attraction to Philip's ministry, why do you think he was drawn to the message of the gospel despite his prior reputation as a magician?

- b. Consider instances in your life where you've been captivated by displays of power or influence. How did these experiences shape your perception of authority and leadership?

- c. Have you ever experienced a moment when the message of the gospel challenged your preconceived notions or beliefs? How did you respond to that challenge?

4. Read Acts 8:14-25

- a. How do you discern between genuine spiritual hunger and a desire for power or recognition in your own life?

- b. Consider moments when you've pursued spiritual growth or sought after spiritual gifts. Were your motives aligned with humility and sincerity, or were there elements of selfish ambition present?
- c. Share about a time when you've witnessed the misuse or abuse of spiritual gifts within a religious or spiritual context. How did it impact your perception of faith and spirituality?
- d. What practical steps can we take to maintain spiritual vigilance and guard against the allure of worldly power and recognition in our own lives?
- e. How can we encourage and support one another in cultivating a genuine hunger for God's presence and a desire to use spiritual gifts for the edification of the body of Christ?