

NOTE: Before now, preaching and miracles had been confined to Peter and John. The group of preachers was growing. According to the Jewish leaders, Stephen was preaching blasphemous theology (Acts 7:56), whereas Peter was accusing the Jewish leaders of killing Jesus. This kicked off a severe persecution of the believers, so that all but the apostles fled the city for fear of imprisonment.

1. Far from driving believers into hiding, the dispersion launched a new phase of missionary activity.
 - a. Where did most Christians scatter? (Acts 8:1)
 - b. Who stayed behind in Jerusalem? (Acts 8:1)
2. How did Saul try to destroy the new Church? (Acts 8:3)
3. Philip, one of the deacons fleeing from Jerusalem, went to Samaria. (Acts 6:5)
 - a. How did the people respond to him? (Acts 8:6)
 - b. What kind of miracles did he perform? (Acts 8:7)
 - c. What did Philip preach that the Samaritans believed? (Acts 8:12)
4. In Samaria, we meet Simon, not to be confused with Peter. Who was this Simon, and what did he do? (Acts 8:9-14)
5. Peter and John were sent to Samaria.
 - a. Who decided to send Peter and John to Samaria, and why? (Acts 8:14-15)
 - b. What is the difference between being baptized and receiving the Holy Spirit? (Acts 8:16)
6. Simon of Samaria received the Holy Spirit like everyone else who had been baptized.
 - a. How did Simon try to get the same power as the apostles? (Acts 8:18-20)
 - b. Why did Peter refuse and then rebuke Simon for his offer? (Acts 8:20-24)
7. Per God's instructions, Philip left Samaria and traveled by foot to Gaza, approximately 100 miles on a desert road. On the way, Philip encountered an Ethiopian Eunuch. (Acts 8:26)
 - a. Why had the Ethiopian come to Jerusalem? (Acts 8:27)
 - b. What was this man doing when Philip encountered him? (Acts 8:28)
 - c. Why was Philip invited to sit in the man's chariot? (Acts 8:30-33)
8. As the Ethiopian and Philip traveled together:
 - a. Describe the initial exchange of words between them. (Acts 8:30-31)
 - b. What did the Ethiopian ask Philip that caused him to talk about Jesus? (Acts 8:34)
 - c. Why do you think the Ethiopian asked to be baptized? (Acts 8:35-38)
9. *Reflection:* Has there ever been a time when your life was unexpectedly redirected?
10. *Challenge:* What are some similarities between the story of Philip explaining the scriptures to the Ethiopian and the risen Lord explaining the scriptures to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus? (Acts 8:34-40; Luke 24:25-28, 30-33)