

## Acts 8

### Observation Questions, "What does the passage say?"

#### Acts 8:4 - 24

1. Who are the main characters of this passage?
2. What does Philip do?
3. What is the result of Philip's work?
4. Who is Simon? How is he described? What does he do?
5. What happens "when Jerusalem" hears about Samaria?
6. What do Peter and John do?
7. Describe the interchange between Simon and Peter. What does Simon ask for? How does Peter respond?
8. Go back over the passage several times looking for who, what, where, why, when, how observations.

### Interpretation: What does this passage mean?

#### Acts 8:4 - 24

1. Who is Philip? Is this the Philip of chapter 6?
2. Why does he go to Samaria?
3. What are the benefits of suffering? Compare this with 1 Peter 2:18-20; 3:13-18; 4:1-6, 12-19.
4. Is Simon saved? How is it that the text says that he believed, yet Peter says he has no part in the matter of the Spirit? Can a person have a "belief" and not be saved?
5. Who are the Samaritans?
6. Why does it take Peter and John to come down and lay hands on them that they might receive the Holy Spirit? Compare this event with 2:1-4; 10:44; 19:6. What is the significance of these events?
7. Why is Peter so harsh with Simon?
8. Answer any other questions you have, following up on any other observations and insights.

### Application: What does the passage mean to me?

#### Acts 8:4 - 24

1. Have you ever suffered for the sake of Christ or the kingdom? Relate your experience and what you learned from it? Have you ever suffered for stupidity or bad choices? Compare the events.
2. Meditate on, ponder and describe the relationship you have with the Holy Spirit. When did you first encounter the Holy Spirit? What events in your life would you say had the Spirit's stamp on them?
3. Examine your heart (Proverbs 4:23). What are your motives? Is your heart pure? How can you care for your heart this week, this year?

## **Observation Questions, "What does the passage say?"**

### **Acts 8:25-40**

9. Who are the main characters of this section?
10. How does Philip know to go to the road to Gaza?
11. Why did the Ethiopian eunuch come to Jerusalem?
12. What was he doing when Philip sees him?
13. What does Philip ask the eunuch?
14. What passage of Scripture is the eunuch reading?
15. What questions does the eunuch ask Philip?
16. What does the eunuch ask Philip to do?
17. What happens after Philip baptizes the eunuch?
18. Make other observations from your reading.

## **Interpretation: What does this passage mean?**

### **Acts 8:25-40**

9. Who is the "they" of verse 25?
10. What is the significance of this event in the progress of the book of Acts?
11. Read Isaiah 53. How does Isaiah 53 speak of Jesus?
12. The eunuch asks to be baptized. What does that tell you about the importance of baptism? What is the relationship between the signs of tongues, healing and baptism?
13. Check out the geography: find Gaza, the road to Gaza, Azotus, Caesarea. Compare with modern Israel.
14. Where else did your interest/study lead you? Come ready to share.

## **Application: What does the passage mean to me?**

### **Acts 8:25-40**

4. Philip was ready to go and do whatever God wanted him to do. Put yourself in Philip's shoes. Would you be that available to God? What has to happen for you to be that ready for God's use?
5. Evaluate your own readiness to explain the Scriptures to questioning people.