

Bible Study on CONNECT in ACTS — Acts 8:1-13

For Sunday May 8, 2022

Acts 8:1-13 (ESV)

8 And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Philip Proclaims Christ in Samaria

⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶ And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much joy in that city.

Simon the Magician Believes

⁹ But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. ¹⁰ They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the power of God that is called Great.” ¹¹ And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. ¹² But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³ Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

1. When/where have you seen persecution against the church in modern times? Have you personally experienced persecution? If so, what happened?
2. Why would devout men lament greatly over Stephen’s courageous death and martyrdom?

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3. Who is Saul? Whose execution did Saul approve of? (Flip back to chapter 7 to review). What does this teach us about Saul?

4. In what way was it a blessing that the followers of Jesus were scattered across the region because of the persecution?

5. Who is Phillip preaching to? What is the result of his teaching?

6. What do verses 9-11 tell us about Simon the Sorcerer? Are there any similarities to Philip? What do you think changed Simon's heart?

7. The Hellenist Christians in this passage were motivated by persecution to share the Good News of Jesus. What motivates you to share? How would you like God to increase your sphere of influence? Do you feel equipped talk with someone about Jesus? Why or why not?

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