

# VOLUME 11, UNIT 31, SESSION 4 (CSB)

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## THE CHURCH EXPERIENCES PERSECUTION (ACTS 8:1-3).

<sup>1</sup> Saul agreed with putting him to death. On that day a severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the land of Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup> Devout men buried Stephen and mourned deeply over him. <sup>3</sup> Saul, however, was ravaging the church. He would enter house after house, drag off men and women, and put them in prison.

## THE CHURCH CONTINUES PROCLAIMING JESUS

(ACTS 8:4-8).

<sup>4</sup> So those who were scattered went on their way preaching the word. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. <sup>6</sup> The crowds were all paying attention to what Philip said, as they listened and saw the signs he was performing. <sup>7</sup> For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed, and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. <sup>8</sup> So there was great joy in that city.

## THE CHURCH GROWS BY THE SPIRIT'S POWER

(ACTS 8:26-35).

<sup>26</sup> An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip: “Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is the desert road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. There was an Ethiopian man, a eunuch and high official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to worship in Jerusalem <sup>28</sup> and was sitting in his chariot on his way home, reading the prophet Isaiah aloud. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, “Go and join that chariot.” <sup>30</sup> When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you’re reading?” <sup>31</sup> “How can I,” he said, “unless someone guides me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> Now the Scripture passage he was reading was this: He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who will describe his generation? For his life is taken from the earth. <sup>34</sup> The eunuch said to Philip, “I ask you, who is the prophet saying this about — himself or someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Philip proceeded to tell him the good news about Jesus, beginning with that Scripture.

