

Life Group and Personal Study Questions

Acts 8:1-9:25

LIFE GROUP

Look through the Reflection Questions in the bulletin and see if there are any you'd like to start with.

1. What different circles or networks of people are you part of and how did you become connected to them?
2. As you look back on your spiritual life, what one or two events seem to be most significant? Why do they stand out?
3. How would you describe what "being saved" means?
4. What, if anything holds you back from sharing your faith? Fear of rejection, lack of knowledge, feeling unprepared? What are some practical ways to gain confidence?
5. Have you gone on a mission trip? Had the opportunity to lead someone to Christ? Share how the experience(s) impacted you.
6. How has God used something bad in your life for His good purposes?
7. Where are you on your personal journey of crossing culture and racial boundaries?
8. How much pressure should we put on people to believe in Christ? Where's the balance between urgency and letting the Lord work in His time?
9. When has God overturned your expectations in a surprising, even shocking way?
10. Who has been your "Ananias"?
11. Take time to pray for one another and for a neighbor, co-worker or relative you'd like to see come to know Christ.

PERSONAL STUDY

Read Acts 8:4-25 Samaria was home to people who were half-breed Jews who kept a form of Judaism but were regarded with suspicion and hostility. Given that background, what is remarkable about Phillip's preaching and the response?

Why do you think Simon was so captivated by certain aspects of Phillip's activity? What was he really after?

Consider a time when you've desired the Holy Spirit's power without submitting yourself to the Holy Spirit? What is dangerous about such arrangements?



Read Acts 8:26-40. This may be the first non-Jew to come to faith and be baptized. What was puzzling the Ethiopian as he was traveling.

Read Isaiah 53 and note why it provided a good opportunity for Phillip to tell the good news about Jesus.

Page back through the first 8 chapters of Acts. Where have we seen this theme of the gospel being opened up to ever widening circles now including the non-Jewish world? Note them.

What additional circles of people that you are not a part of already (ethnic, social, geographical, etc.) could you or our church touch with the good news?

Think of ways that you could figuratively get into someone's chariot and ride along so that you have the opportunity to tell the good news about Jesus?

Stop right now and pray that you would see and seize opportunities to talk with people about the Bible and use their questions to tell the good news.

Read Acts 9:1-22 Saul was highly intelligent, well educated, supremely biblically literate. How do you explain that when he is persecuting Christian believers, Jesus twice says, "why are you persecuting me"?

What can you learn about Saul from these autobiographical passages?

Galatians 1:13, 14

Philippians 3:4b-6

Acts 22:3, 4

Acts 26:4, 5, 9-11

Saul's former teacher was Gamaliel (see Acts 22:3). What did Gamaliel advise the Sanhedrin regarding Christians in Acts 5:34-39? How does Saul respond to this advice?

Read Acts 9:10-31 How would you act in Ananias' place? Since Jesus had already appeared to Saul directly, why this time would he want a person to go to him? What is significant about the way Ananias addresses Saul?

Pray for those, who like Saul, would be considered unlikely candidates to become followers of Christ, let alone leaders in the church. Pray also that you will serve as an Ananias, obeying in the face of danger.