



# DIGGING DEEPER

Acts 8v1-25 – Persecution brings Growth

**PLEASE READ** – Acts 8v1-25

**GETTING STARTED** (v1-4)

Revisit Acts 1v8 and chat about where we've got to in the unfolding story of Acts...

Work through the sequence of events in v1-4. How does this encourage you...

## 1) THE GOSPEL KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES (v5-8)

Why is the gospel going to Samaria such a big deal? What does it teach us about the willingness of Philip?

Does Philip's reception in Samaria surprise you?

How willing are you to take the gospel to people who are **unlike** you and maybe even **dislike** you?

## 2) THE GOSPEL CONQUERS ALL (v9-13)

Chat about the way of life in Samaria before the gospel arrived... (v9-11)

What are the main things in our day that people are living for / seduced by?

What does v12 teach us about the gospel?

### **3) WHY WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHHELD? (v14-17)**

Talk through what actually happens in these few verses...

Is this standard procedure? Does it follow the pattern of Acts and indeed the rest of scripture? See Acts 2v37-38 / Acts 10v44 / 1 Cor 12v13 / Rom 8v9

Why then does it happen here? Remember the context of Acts 1v8 and the significance of this moment...

### **4) WAS SIMON'S FAITH GENUINE? (v18-25)**

Discuss the question above on the basis of Simon's actions (v18-19) and Peter's response (v20-21)

What does this teach us about 'outward professions' of faith?

**Reflect on the words of James below...**

**James 2v26:** As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.