

Understand your Bible

Suggested notes

Acts 8

What we will see in this chapter:

- The effect of Saul's persecution
- Two very different converts

1 Read the chapter

2 Questions to help us in our understanding of this chapter. Look at the chapter verses in your Bible and use the questions to help you make your notes.

| Chapter verses | Questions (to help with your notes) | Suggested notes |
|----------------|---|---|
| 1 to 3 | 1. What was Saul doing? | Saul was increasing his persecution of the believers, who then fled to Judea and Samaria. He was entering houses and taking believers to prison. |
| 4 | 2. What was the effect of Saul's actions? | Believers preached the word wherever they went. |
| 5 to 8 | 3. What did Philip do? | Philip went to Samaria where many listened to his preaching. He also healed many paralysed and lame people. |
| 9 to 13 | 4. What are we told about Simon before and after he believed? | Before believing he: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ practised sorcery in the city ➤ amazed the people of Samaria ➤ made himself out to be some great one After believing, he was baptised and was amazed at the signs and wonders he saw Philip doing. |
| 14 to 17 | 5. What did Peter and John do in Samaria? | They prayed that the believers in Samaria might receive the Holy Spirit. |
| 18 to 24 | 6. What did Simon do and how did Peter react? | He offered money to have the ability to give the Holy Spirit to people. Peter reprimanded him for thinking God's gift could be bought with money, and told him to repent so that he could be forgiven. |
| 25 & 26 | 7. What did the apostles and Philip then do? | After more preaching, the apostles returned to Jerusalem. Philip was told by an angel to go south towards Gaza. |

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| Chapter verses | Questions | Suggested notes |
|--|---|--|
| 27 to 30 | 8. Who did Philip meet and what are we told about him? | He met an Ethiopian eunuch who was the treasurer of Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians. After worshipping in Jerusalem, he was reading Isaiah on his way home. |
| 31 to 35 <i>Text note v 32: He was reading Isaiah 53 v 7 and 8.</i> | 9. What did the eunuch ask Philip and what did Philip say in reply? | The eunuch asked who the prophet was talking about. After explaining that he was reading a prophecy about Jesus, Philip preached to him about Christ. |
| 36 to 40 | 10. What was the eunuch's response and what did they do? | When he saw water, he asked to be baptised. They both then went into the water and Philip baptised the eunuch. |

3 Related theme from v 38: *The importance of belief and baptism.*

Have a look at these related verses and see this theme running through the New Testament. Make a note of the main point(s) in the verse(s).

| Verse(s) | Main point(s) |
|-----------------------|--|
| Matthew 28 v 18 to 20 | Jesus instructs his apostles to teach others what he has taught them. They are then to be baptised. |
| Mark 16 v 15 and 16 | Jesus' instruction in Mark's gospel shows that both belief and baptism are essential for salvation. |
| Acts 10 v 46 to 48 | Cornelius, and others with him, are baptised after they are given Holy Spirit gifts. |
| Acts 16 v 29 to 34 | The Philippian jailor and his family are baptised after believing. |
| Romans 6 v 3 to 7 | Baptism represents the death of a life in bondage to sin, and resurrection to a new way of life, free from bondage to sin. |
| 1 Peter 3 v 21 | Baptism is not just like having a bath. It is the response that God requires through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. |