

## Family Discipleship Resource

Aug 24-30

(Acts 8:4-13)



### **G** – Gather for Prayer

*Father,*

*Thank you for my testimony of faith. Help me to share my testimony with those who need to hear it.*

*In Jesus' Name, Amen*

### **R** – Read the Text (Acts 8:4-13)

*"<sup>4</sup> Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them. <sup>6</sup> The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. <sup>7</sup> For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. <sup>8</sup> So there was much rejoicing in that city. <sup>9</sup> Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; <sup>10</sup> and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, 'This man is what is called the Great Power of God.' <sup>11</sup> And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. <sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. <sup>13</sup> Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed."*

### **O** – Observe what God has said

***Why does the church make it to Samaria?***

***How does the gospel transform the people of Samaria? Simon?***

### **W** – Work on Application

Simon's personal transformation and the corporate transformation of the community of Samaria would not have taken place had the gospel not reached them and, at least here, the gospel would not have reached them had the church not been dispersed following the increased pressure and persecution in Jerusalem that forced the church out and into new and emerging contexts. Both testimonies bear witness to the incredible power of God's sovereignty that is able to take what looks like a bad situation or difficult circumstance and use it to change lives and impact communities. This, again, ought to challenge us as God's people to have an enormous view of God's sovereignty and, as a result, an expansive view of our circumstances. When we adopt this, we will be able to appreciate how difficulty or discomfort can be used to take us to new and exciting places where the gospel is needed and the mission hasn't reached. What will the testimony of Goochland be years from now, given how our church is engaged in the spreading of the gospel in our context?

***Can you think of an example of something difficult in your life that God used for good?***

***Where does the gospel need to invade today? In what ways can we spread ourselves to share the good news?***

---

## **Family Discipleship Resource**

Aug 24-30

(Acts 8.4-13)

Family Weekly Memory Verse: *"Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."-Acts 8:4*