

## Acts 8:5-8 - Philip Goes to Samaria

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### Message to Conversation Guide

#### Opening Scripture

##### **Acts 8:4-8**

*4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. 6 And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. 7 For unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying with a loud voice, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was much joy in that city. ESV*

#### Discussion Questions

1. We have no indication that Philip had a “special word, vision or mystical experience” telling him to go to Samaria. Verse 5 simply says he went to Samaria. Compare the initial commission of Jesus to the disciples with the actions of Philip during the persecution of the church, and discuss how his choosing Samaria to evangelize may have been simple obedience to the earlier words of Jesus.

##### **Acts 1:8**

*8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."ESV*

2. We don't always need a mystical experience to step out in faith to do something for the Lord. What are some practical things that God has already laid out in his word that we can do on a regular basis.

##### **Micah 6:8**

*8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? ESV*

3. Ministering to the Samaritans was controversial. Discuss this principle: No one can change anything of significance without being controversial; if we avoid controversy we will never change the world!
4. Discuss the following ways that Samaritans were different from mainstream Jews in the times of the Apostles:

- Samaritans were a mixed race - the bi-product of intermarriage between foreign people and poor Jews left in Northern Israel after the fall of the Northern Kingdom in 722 AD.
- They blended Jewish religion and other foreign religions.
- They only held to and revered the first 5 books of the Old Testament (the Pentateuch).
- They built their own temple on Mount Gerizim (which was later destroyed by Jews)

5. Read and review the scriptures below that give a summary of the Samaritans general evolution of being a unique and distinct group.

### **2 Kings 17:6**

6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. ESV

### **2 Kings 17:24-25**

24 And the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the people of Israel. And they took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities. ESV

### **2 Kings 17:33 (2 Kings 17:29-32)**

33 So they feared the Lord but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away. ESV

6. The racism that existed between the Jews and Samaritans can be illustrated by the use of "Samaritan" as a derogatory term in Jesus day. Read and discuss the verse below.

### **John 8:48**

48 The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ESV

7. Why do you think prejudice and racism is so deeply rooted in people's minds and hearts? Discuss the total inclusion of different races worshiping together in heaven.

### **Rev 7:9**

9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before

*the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ESV*