SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 8

Joy in Samaria, Joy on the Road

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 8:4

"Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 8

Acts 8 starts at a grave and ends with a man singing his way home. God took a persecution that scattered His people and turned it into seed, sent the good news to people others avoided, and sent one man down a desert road for one reader. This week, wherever you have been scattered, He wants to use you there.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Scattered, Not Stopped

READ · ACTS 8:1–4

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What happened to the church in Jerusalem after Stephen died, and what did the scattered believers do (8:1, 3–4)?

REFLECT

The believers lost their homes and were "scattered," and still "went about preaching the word" (8:4). Where has your life been scattered — by prison, addiction, a move, a broken family — and who is around you there?

REFLECT

"Devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him" (8:2). How do you grieve a real loss and still keep going with God?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell one person today, in a sentence or two, what Jesus has done for you — right where you are.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 8:4)

DAY 2 OF 5

Christ in a Hard Place

READ · ACTS 8:5–13

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Philip preach in Samaria, what happened in the city, and how did Simon respond (8:5–8, 12–13)?

REFLECT

Philip went to Samaritans, people Jews had looked down on for centuries, and "began proclaiming Christ to them" (8:5). Who are the people you were raised to avoid, and what would it take to bring Christ to them?

REFLECT

The result was "much rejoicing in that city" (8:8). Where have you seen Jesus bring real joy into a place that had none?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray by name for one person or group you have looked down on, and ask God for a way to show them Christ.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 8:4)

DAY 3 OF 5

Not for Sale

READ · ACTS 8:14–25

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Simon offer the apostles, what did he want in return, and what did Peter tell him to do (8:18–22)?

REFLECT

Simon "thought you could obtain the gift of God with money" (8:20). Where are you tempted to earn or buy God's favor — with good behavior, service, or giving — instead of receiving it as a gift?

REFLECT

Peter said, "your heart is not right before God" (8:21), even though Simon had been baptized (8:13). What is the difference between being impressed by Jesus and truly belonging to Him?

RESPOND — TODAY

Confess one way you have tried to use God for what you want, and thank Him that His gift is free.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 8:4)

DAY 4 OF 5

One Man, One Road

READ · ACTS 8:26–35

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where did the angel send Philip, who was he sent to, and what was that man reading (8:26–28, 32–33)?

REFLECT

The Ethiopian asked, "how could I, unless someone guides me?" (8:31). Who is helping you understand the Bible — and who might God want you to help?

REFLECT

Philip "ran up" to the chariot (8:30) and, beginning from Isaiah, "preached Jesus to him" (8:35). How quick are you to move when God puts one person in front of you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Read Isaiah 53:7–8 slowly today, and write one sentence about what it tells you Jesus did for you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 8:4)

DAY 5 OF 5

Going Home Rejoicing

READ · ACTS 8:36–40

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the eunuch ask when he saw water, what did Philip do, and how did the eunuch leave (8:36, 38–39)?

REFLECT

The eunuch asked, "What prevents me from being baptized?" (8:36). What do you feel is standing between you and fully following Jesus — and is it really standing in the way?

REFLECT

When Philip was gone, the eunuch "went on his way rejoicing" (8:39) with the Scripture still in his hands. How does your joy hold up when the people who helped you are no longer around?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God out loud for one specific reason you have to rejoice today, and keep His Word with you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 8:4)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

God used persecution to push the church out of Jerusalem (8:1, 4). What hard thing has God used to push each of us toward people we would never have met otherwise?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Simon and the Ethiopian were both baptized (8:13, 38), but one wanted Christ's power and the other wanted Christ. How can we help each other check which one we are after?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Philip left a crowded city for one man on a desert road (8:26–29). As a group, who is the one person each of us will reach out to this week?

MY PRAYER

Lord, wherever You have scattered me, I want to speak of You there, so today I ask You to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 8:4

"Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."