

STUDY GUIDE

OCTOBER 2, 2022

LEAVING YOUR COMFORT ZONE | BATTERED AND SCATTERED
ACTS 8:1-25

Note to Leaders: Every group is different, please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group from each section below.

WORK AHEAD | HOW CAN I COME PREPARED FOR MY GROUP?

1. Read Acts 8:1-25.
2. Look over your message notes. What was surprising or insightful? What questions were raised?
3. If time allows, look ahead at the “Digging In” section and think through how you would contribute to your group discussion.

FOR STARTERS | THOUGHTS TO GET US ON THE SAME PAGE

1. Imagine you suddenly have to abandon your home and only have time to fill one rolling suitcase. What do you take with you?

DIGGING IN | DISCOVERING WHAT GOD SAYS IN SCRIPTURE

When You're Pushed Out of Your Comfort Zone

1. In Acts 8:1-25, we see how God uses hard times to get His people out of their comfort zone and to carry out the mission (Acts 1:8).
2. Imagine what it would have been like to be a Jesus follower in Jerusalem. What are the financial, emotional and physical implications of Acts 8:1-3? (Compare with Acts 2:42-47).
3. Can you relate to hard things pushing you out of your comfort zone?
4. Read through Acts 8:4-25. How did God make what was meant for evil work out for the best? (Compare with Genesis 50:20).
5. How have you seen this work out in your life?

Real Power

1. In this passage, Simon gets a lesson on the source of real power. What are some lies he believes about fame, power and money?
2. How does Peter rebuke and correct Simon?
3. Look at Peter's response to Simon in Acts 8:20-23. What's wrong with Simon's view of power? How is the power of the Spirit different than the world's kind of power?
4. What does it look like today when people take the world's kind of power into the church?

The Surprising Power of the Gospel

1. In this passage, the gospel's transforming power moves through Philip, a lay person, and catches even Peter and John off guard! Who would ever think that Samaritans and magicians could be saved?
2. What's the most surprising conversion you've ever seen?
3. How does that encourage you to share the gospel with the people around you at work or school?

BRINGING IT HOME | APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Personal Reflection

Where are you being pushed out of your comfort zone right now?

Group Application

Encourage anyone in the group who is being pushed beyond their limits right now. Pray that God would open their eyes to the good that's in store.

DIGGING DEEPER | IDEAS TO KEEP GROWING DURING THE WEEK

1. Have you ever practiced sharing the gospel story? Check out this [easy and useful method](#) by our friends at Intersarsity.
2. A lot of people around Madison turn to spells, amulets, sorcery and astrology for protection, healing and guidance. How is the Holy Spirit's power different and better than magic? Check out this [helpful article](#).