

Lesson Eight: Philip's Journeys

The Samaritans (*read verses 8:4-25*)

- 1) Questions 1 and 5 will help you compare the two episodes in this week's reading.
 - a) In 8:4-25 who is evangelized, convinced, and baptized?
 - b) What do the Jews think of these people (see John 4:9)?
 - c) How is this group's conversion significant to the progress of the gospel?
 - d) What convinces this group to become believers (8:6-8, 12)?
 - e) What are the apostles' Peter and John's role in bringing this group into the church (8:14-17)?
- 2) Why do you think it was important for God to use the apostles to demonstrate officially that the Samaritans were to become true participants in the church (see John 4:21-24)?
- 3) What was so terrible about Simon's request in 8:18-19?
- 4) Why do you think Luke recorded the episode with Simon? What does it add to the story of Acts?

The Ethiopian eunuch (*read verses 8:26-40*)

- 5) Keep question 1 in mind as you answer these questions.
 - a) Who accepted the gospel in this story?
 - b) What status did this kind of person have with the Jews (see Deuteronomy 23:1)?
 - c) How was the eunuch's conversion significant to the progress of the gospel (Isaiah 56:3-5; 2:11-18)?
 - d) What was Philip's role in taking the step to permit such a person into the church? Why is this important?
 - e) What convinced the eunuch to be baptized (8:35)?
- 6) Summarize what both stories in 8:4-40 contribute to the overall message of Acts.

