

## **The Acts of the Apostles - Chapter 8 Study Questions**

1. **Acts 8:3** What does this expression underscore about Saul's attack on the Church?  
What did Saul hope to accomplish, and how did he go about it?

Footnote p. 220, **Word Study: Laid Waste**

2. **Acts 8:5** Who was Philip and what does his ministry in Samaria display about the gospel?

Footnote p. 220, **8:5 Philip**

3. **Acts 8:6–13** What do you think is the difference between a miracle and magic?

How might you discern whether your approach to the outcome of a sacrament such as Confirmation or Eucharist is based on a belief in the effects of grace or those of magic?

Footnote p. 220, **8:9 Simon**

**Acts 17:10-11** (p. 236)

**Exodus 7:20-22**

4. **Acts 8:16** What distinction is being made in this passage?

How does it reflect a similar distinction between Baptism and Confirmation?

Footnote p. 220, **8:16 Not yet fallen**

**CCC 1288** "From that time on the apostles, in fulfillment of Christ's will, imparted to the newly baptized by the laying on of hands the gift of the Spirit that completes the grace of Baptism. For this reason in the *Letter to the Hebrews* the doctrine concerning Baptism and the laying on of hands is listed among the first elements of Christian instruction. The imposition of hands is rightly recognized by the Catholic tradition as the origin of the sacrament of Confirmation, which in a certain way perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the Church."

5. **Acts 8:13** When was the last time you were amazed at what God has done?

If you have never been surprised or amazed at God's intervention, what do you think causes that?

6. **Acts 8:27** What were the restrictions on the Ethiopian eunuch regarding the worship for which he had come to Jerusalem? What did Isaiah envision regarding eunuchs?

**Isaiah 56:3-5** Do not let the foreigner joined to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely separate me from his people"; and do not let the eunuch say, "I am just a dry tree." For thus says the LORD: To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

Footnote p. 221, **8:27 A eunuch**

7. **Acts 8:30–31** How hard is it for you to understand what you read in Scripture?

If Scripture is hard to understand, what kind of guidance do you seek as you read it?

8. **Acts 8:34-38** What does the dawning of the Christian age convince Philip to do?