

**HomeWord**  
For Parents

**T**he early church grew despite the fact that the disciples were arrested and forbidden to preach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:17–18). The arrests and condemnation only served to make the apostles bolder as they prayed for help and courage from the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:29–31).

Their preaching angered the religious leaders. Tensions rose until Stephen, the first martyr for Jesus, was dragged from the city and stoned to death for proclaiming the gospel (Acts 7:54–59). Because of this new wave of violent persecution, Christians scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1–3). As they fled their persecutors, their faith went with them, and the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ was preached in other areas.

The apostle Philip was one of the first missionaries of the early church. He traveled to the city of Samaria, doing miracles and preaching Christ to them.

The people responded with joy to the truth of the gospel (Acts 8:4–8).

God then sent Philip south, along the road from Jerusalem to Gaza, where he was able to preach to an Ethiopian. This man of Ethiopia listened to Philip as he discussed the book of Isaiah and explained that it was Jesus whom Isaiah had written about. The Ethiopian believed Jesus was the Son of God and was baptized (Acts 8:26–37). And as he was a man of great authority in Ethiopia, who worked for Queen Candace, it is likely his testimony and changed life furthered the gospel in that region (Acts 8:27).

Persecution is real. God ordains it and uses it to grow His church and fulfill the Great Commission. It started in the first century, when the Christians were scattered, and they went everywhere preaching the word (Acts 8:1). And it continues today.

*Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.*

**OutWord** For Family Discussion

Suppose you were talking to a friend and she said she didn't believe that God would ever want her to suffer or go through hard times because He loves her and wants only good things for her. **What could you say?**

*God does love all those who believe and trust in Jesus. He calls believers His children! But God's Word does not say that believers will never go through hard times. He doesn't promise we will always have everything we want. In fact, God tells us to be careful of treasures on earth. God wants us to depend on Him. If our lives are easy all the time, we will be more likely to depend on ourselves. Suffering and difficulties are often gifts from God because they help Christians turn to God and His Word for help and comfort. You see, God does want what is best for us, but what is best is not part of the world. What is best for us is Jesus Christ, salvation, forgiveness of sins, and the hope of eternity in heaven one day. And if God has to bring suffering into our lives to help us remember that, then He will—because He loves us so much!*

**inWord**  
For Family Study

“Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). You want your children to walk in God's way, on His path. Only His Word can direct them. Help them to know His Word. Study and memorize it together as a family.

*Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.*



# The Gospel Spreads

**KEY** THEME

- God is sovereign over all things.

**KEY** PASSAGES

- Romans 8:28
- Acts 8:4–8, 8:26–31, 8:34–38

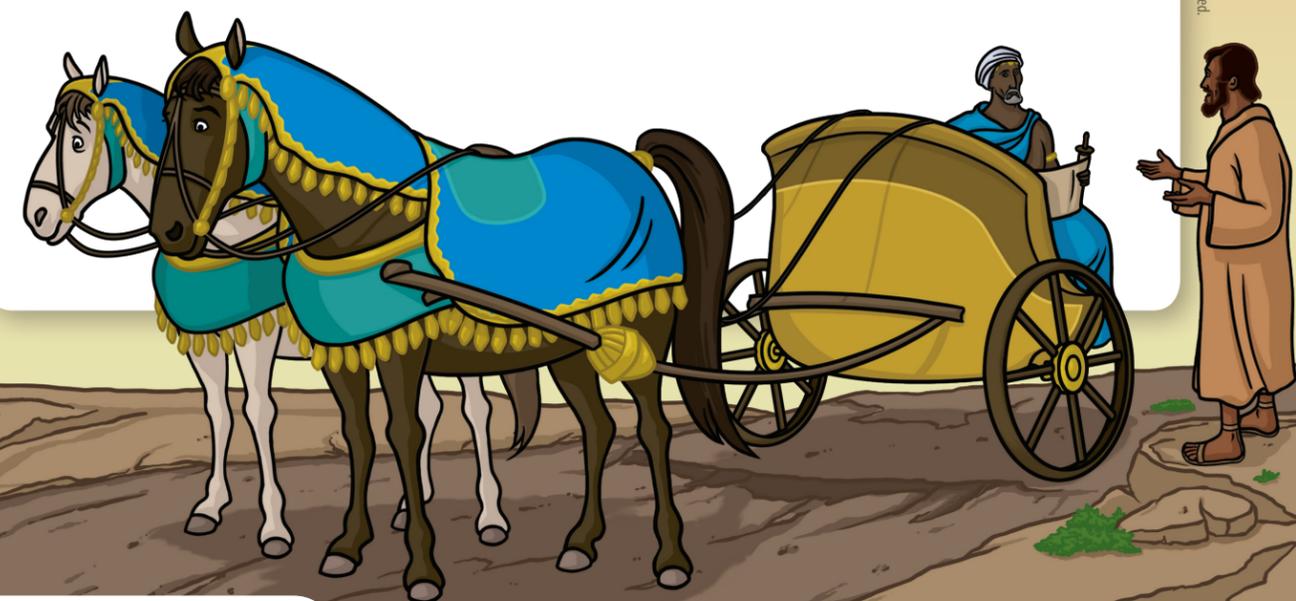


What You **HEARD** in the **WORD**

- The Christians were persecuted and scattered. Because of the persecution, they went everywhere preaching the gospel.
- God sent Philip to Samaria where many believed. Then he was sent to explain the Scriptures to the Ethiopian man who received the truth and was baptized.

Answer these questions from today's lesson.

- 1 God used something very bad to spread the gospel to other nations. What was it?
- 2 Who did God send to Samaria and then to preach to the Ethiopian?
- 3 What did the Ethiopian man do after Philip preached Jesus from the Scriptures?



1) The Christians were being persecuted. 2) Philip. 3) He believed and was baptized.

## Read the Word

### Monday {Acts 8:1}

When the great persecution arose against the church, where did the people scatter?

### Tuesday {Acts 8:3}

What was the man named Saul doing to the early church?

### Wednesday {Acts 8:4}

What did the Christians do when they were scattered everywhere?

### Thursday {Acts 11:21}

What good thing was happening because of the persecution?

### Friday {Acts 8:37}

What had the Ethiopian come to believe about Jesus?

### Saturday {Romans 1:16}

The gospel brings sinners to salvation. Whose power is in the gospel? (Your Memory Verse)

## LIVE the Word

Suppose you heard someone say he doesn't have the gift of evangelism, so he tries to be a living example of the gospel—no words are necessary. **What could you say?**

*Of course, the Bible says we are to be salt and light in the world. Our lives should be different than people who don't believe in Jesus. But the Bible also says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ! Words are important! In order to be saved for all eternity, sinners must call on the name of Jesus! How can they call on Him if they have not believed in Him? How can they believe in Him if they have never heard of Him? They hear about Him from Christians who know and love Him! God's Word is what saves people. And Christians need to share the good news and tell others about Jesus.*

## Learn the Word

Unscramble the words and fill in the blanks

For I am not \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
smadeha

\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, for it the  
golpse

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to salvation  
eorwp Gdo

for \_\_\_\_\_ who believes, for  
vyoenree

the Jew \_\_\_\_\_ and also for the  
ifrst

\_\_\_\_\_. Romans 1:16  
rGeke

ANSWERS: Ashamed, gospel, God, everyone, first, Greek.

ANSWERS: 1) God is in control of all things.  
2) He works all things out for good for those who love Him.

## Tag-A-Long Truth

Each word in the sentences below is either combined with part of another word or is divided in the wrong place. Separate the letters, and write each word in order on the lines below the sentences. You will find an encouraging truth about God.

1. Go disi nco ntro lofa llt hi ngs.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Hew ork sal lt hin gso utfo rgo odf ortho sew hol oveH im.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## THREE-IN-A-ROW, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Read each clue in the list below and decide if it's true or false. In the appropriate box put a T by the number of each true statement and an F by the number of each false statement. (Hint: When you finish, you'll find three "Trues" in a row two times.)

1. Peter went to Samaria to preach Christ to the people. Acts 8:5.
2. The people in Samaria did not like what Philip preached. Acts 8:6.
3. Philip did miracles in Samaria, too. Acts 8:6.
4. There was great joy in Samaria because the people believed the gospel. Acts 8:8.
5. An angel of the Lord told Philip to go on the road to Gaza. Acts 8:26.
6. On the road, Philip met a man from Ethiopia who worked for the queen of Ethiopia. Acts 8:27.
7. Philip heard the Ethiopian reading a comic book. Acts 8:30.
8. Philip got in the chariot and told him not to read comics anymore. Acts 8:35.
9. The Ethiopian man believed the gospel and was baptized. Acts 8:37–38.

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

ANSWERS: 1) True, 2) False, 3) True, 4) True, 5) True, 6) True, 7) True, 8) False, 9) True. He was reading the Scriptures—the book of Isaiah. 2) False. They listened and believed (heeded) the things spoken by Philip. 3) True, 4) True, 5) True, 6) True, 7) True, 8) False, 9) True.

### SNEAK PEEK

What amazing event changed Saul's life forever? Come next week to find out.

