



## the upside down series

### week seven: God at work in & through his people

1. God is at work even when the situation seems \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God is at work even when the obstacles seem \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God is at work even when the conversions are \_\_\_\_\_.
4. God is at work even when the probability seems \_\_\_\_\_.

*I thank God for the freedom to study the Bible without persecution in our homes and country. Every time you open the word of God and read it you are entering God's throne room freely because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the throne for you. I praise Him for this.*



## day one: joy amidst prosecution

*Are you ready for a new week? Stephen is dead. The people mourn him deeply. But persecution is about to be intensified.*

*Today we will read Acts 8:1-8.*

### exploring the text

1. Who was leading the persecution of the believers?

interesting fact

Joy does not depend on circumstances or comfort. The joy of the Lord is my strength

2. Where did Christ's followers and the apostles go when the persecution began?

3. Do you think God was surprised by the spread of his followers to Judea and Samaria? (hint: Acts 1:8)

4. How aggressive was the persecution against the believers?





## day two: the magician's tale

*One of the things I like about the book of Acts is the fact that so many new characters continue to be introduced. Today we will meet Simon and Philip.*

*Read Acts 8:9-25, but we will mainly focus on vs.9-13.*

### exploring the text

1. Write down as many things about Simon as you can glean in verses 9-11.

interesting fact

God makes no mistakes. The murder of Stephen may have seemed unjust at first, but it would eventually lead to the spread of the gospel to Judea and Samaria. Stephen's death would also impact the life of Saul in an unforgettable way.

2. What seems to be a motivating factor for Simon?
3. In vs.12 how is the good news described?
4. How was Simon the Sorcerer's life affected by the gospel?





## day three: word of warning

*Begin your time with Prayer. We are still going to talk about Simon today, but let's finish his story.*

*Focus today's reading on Acts 8:14-25.*

### exploring the text

1. In vs. 18, Simon sees a new aspect of the power of God. What proved that Simon's belief may have only been a head knowledge?

**prayer**

Ask God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for ears to hear his voice and a heart that obeys with a pure motive. Confess times when you have tried to receive spiritual power in ways not pleasing to him.

2. How did he attempt to get spiritual power?
3. What was his motivation for wanting this power?
4. In contrast, what is God's way for his people to receive spiritual power (vs. 20-23)?





## day four: red apples

*Today let's read the story of Philip and the Eunuch. I really love that story. I hope you will too if you've never read it before!*

*Read Acts 8:26-40 but let's focus on vs.26-34 for the questions.*

### exploring the text

1. Where did the angel tell Philip to go? How was the place described?

#### interesting fact

God accomplishes His sovereign work through human instruments. Like a master sculptor he takes otherwise useless and inconsequential tools and uses them to create a masterpiece.

There is a prerequisite to being used by God.

God uses holy tools to do His work.

(II Timothy 2:20-21)

2. Did the angel's message to Philip make any sense?

3. What did Philip do?

4. Who did Philip meet along the way and why did he approach him and speak to him?





## day five: all in a day's work

*I hope you've enjoyed Acts 8. Today read vs.34-40 for the conclusion.*

### exploring the text

1. What is the good news about Jesus? Why is it called good news?

interesting fact

The people Philip shared the good news with were different in race, rank, and religion. Yet despite their differences, Philip presented them both with the same good news of Jesus!

2. How did the Ethiopian respond?

3. Based on the passage, what can you tell about baptism in terms of timing and location?

4. What happened to Philip after the eunuch was baptized? Why?

