

Book of Acts**Session 8: Acts 7-8****Lord Jesus, receive my spirit**

1. Read Acts 7:44-8:1. Stephen was near the end of his sermon. He had defended himself against the second charge, that he was speaking against God's laws and changing the customs handed down by Moses. Now he brought up the issue of the temple. The Sanhedrin's false witnesses had accused Stephen of speaking against the temple and saying that Jesus would destroy it. Compare the Sanhedrin's accusation against Stephen in regard to the temple (Acts 6:13, 14) with their accusation against Christ (see John 2:19-22 and Mark 14:57, 58).
 - What does Stephen affirm about the Jews' practices in verses 44-47?
 - For what does he fault the Jews for in verses 49 and 50?
2. What was the conclusion of Stephen's sermon?
3. Pride leads sinners stung by the law to lash out mindlessly. How was this demonstrated here?
4. What comfort does the Lord give us by describing how Stephen died?
5. The Sanhedrin had a sinful understanding of the temple. They seem to have been more concerned about preserving a structure than they were about preserving the Lord's truth. Explain how we can fall into a similar trap. Then describe a God-pleasing attitude toward worship facilities.

Winds of opposition spread gospel seeds

6. Read Acts 8:2-25. The devil wanted to use persecution to crush the church. How did God turn evil into good?
7. How might that outcome, help/inspire us to witness more faithfully?

8. What blessings did the Lord give through the miraculous signs performed by Philip?
9. Read verses 14-16 again. Consider Acts 8:12, Acts 2:38, and 1 Corinthians 12:3. What is happening and why?
10. Simon fell into a great sin. Why was his desire to buy God's power wrong?
11. What is Simon's response to Peter's harsh proclamation of the Law?

The promised Messiah has come

12. Read Acts 8:26-40. The Ethiopian eunuch was reading from Isaiah chapter 53. Read Isaiah 53:2-12. Pick out phrases that point to the coming Messiah, and explain how Jesus fulfilled them.
13. Though we don't hear it specifically mentioned, what teaching must Philip have included in his witness to the Ethiopian?
14. Philip began his evangelism encounter with the Ethiopian by asking a question (verse 30). What role did Philip's question play in the rest of his witnessing opportunity? Give examples of how we might use questions in witnessing encounters. What advantages are there to beginning a conversation about the Lord in that way?