

## The Holy Spirit in Acts

# *Session 5: Beyond Jerusalem*

*Acts 8:1 – 40*

Instructor: Dirk Rodgers

For Handouts, Discussion Guide and more, visit [blog.dirkscorner.com](http://blog.dirkscorner.com).  
Videos will also be posted on our [Bethany Church YouTube Channel](#).

*Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture passages are taken from the New International Version (2011), Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.*

The 'Plot' of the Story

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all *Judea and Samaria*, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

Luke treats Samaria first, then Judea

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Slide 3

**EXPANSION OF THE EARLY CHURCH IN PALESTINE**  
ACTS 4-11

• City  
▲ Mountain peak  
→ Philip's routes  
→ Peter and John's routes  
→ Peter's routes

The map shows the Mediterranean Sea to the west, the Dead Sea to the east, and the Galilee region to the north. Key locations include Jerusalem (labeled '3'), Samaria (labeled '2'), and the Decapolis region. Three numbered areas indicate the spread of the church: 1. Judea and Samaria, 2. Samaria and Decapolis, and 3. Judea and Jerusalem. A legend in the top left corner defines symbols for cities, mountain peaks, and the routes of Philip, Peter and John, and Peter. A scale bar at the bottom left shows distances in miles and kilometers.

## The 'Plot' Mapped Out

Map available on [blog.dirkscorner.com](http://blog.dirkscorner.com)

Map adapted from Brisco, T. V. (1998).  
Holman Bible atlas (p. 242). Nashville,  
TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Session Outline

1. Philip, Peter and John in Samaria
2. Philip in Judea

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1. Philip, Peter and John in Samaria

“When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid

Empowered to  
Heal

close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, ***impure spirits came out of many***, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.

Acts 8:6-8

*Deacon turns Evangelist!*

*Compare Luke 6:18-19; Mark 1:11, 23-25*

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1. Philip, Peter and John in Samaria

“But when they believed  
Philip as he proclaimed the  
good news of the kingdom  
of God and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were  
baptized, both men and women.**

Empowered to  
Heal

Acts 8:12

*‘good news’ is the NIV translation of one Greek word,  
also sometimes translated ‘gospel’*

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1. Philip, Peter and John in Samaria

A Couple Observations

- Not a 'ceremony' thing
- A divine act required to join sign with reality
- A revelation thing

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1. Philip, Peter and John in Samaria

“After they had further  
proclaimed the word of the  
Lord and testified about

Confirmed through  
a Sign

Jesus, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem,  
preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.”

Acts 8:25

*‘Gospelizing’ as they travelled.*



## 2. Philip In Judea

“Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’”

Led by the Spirit

Acts 8:26

*His ways are not always our ways!*

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**EXPANSION OF THE EARLY CHURCH IN PALESTINE**  
ACTS 4-11

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Phillip's routes
- Peter and John's routes
- Peter's routes

## 2. Philip In Judea

A journey of some 60 miles

How many miles can you walk in a day?

Map adapted from Brisco, T. V. (1998). Holman Bible atlas (p. 242). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

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2. Philip In Judea

“Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.”

Relocated by the Spirit

Acts 8:39

*‘Gospelizing’ in Judea, see map on the following slide*

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Conclusion

**Last Week:** Through His Spirit empowering His faithful witnesses, God extends His spiritual kingdom to all nations.

**This Week:** The Sprit transforms lives through faithful followers who 'Gospelize' as they go.

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