

# SURPRISE, SURPRISE, SURPRISE!

## ACTS 8:1-25

**Context:** In Acts 6-7, Stephen had just been stoned to death, and Acts 8 records the surprising effect that had on the church, specifically through a man named Philip.

**What Acts 8 shows us about God's power:**

1. It can turn persecution into opportunities to \_\_\_\_\_ (1-8).
2. It can break down barriers to incorporate \_\_\_\_\_ and unify the church (9-17).
3. It is reserved for those whose hearts are \_\_\_\_\_ (18-25).



**Ways to apply the Word:**

- 1) Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ believers.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel.
- 3) Let's make the church a place where \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Examine \_\_\_\_\_.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Can you think of other biblical or contemporary examples in which persecution resulted in the spread of the gospel?
2. Who are some modern-day "Samaritans" that we can love in the name of Christ?
3. What can the church do to be a uniting, reconciling force?