

# The People You'll Meet

## Acts 8:1-24

### **Introduction**

The Christians are scattered, the Gospel is being spread, and the narrative focuses in on one particular believer-Philip. Philip flees to Samaria, and as he shares the Good News with the Samaritans, he runs into different types of people who respond differently to his words. When we take the Gospel into our world, we'll encounter different types of people who will react to our message in different ways. How should we respond to their reactions?

### **Scripture for study**

Text: Acts 8:1-24

Persecution- Matt. 5:11-12, Romans 12:14

Sharing the Gospel- I Peter 3:15

Discernment- I John 4:1

### **Message Outline**

Four types of people Philip encountered...

1. The Persecutors

Reaction: Trade persecution for blessing

2. The Willing Listeners

Reaction: Know how to explain the Gospel

3. The Influential Deceivers

Reaction: Be discerning!

4. The Unlikely Converts

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Response: Reach them and accept them

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Can you identify some ways that the church is being persecuted in the world? How about in the USA? What effect is this having on the church?
2. Many American Christians have trouble seeing anything good in persecution. Why is that?
3. Pastor George mentioned a couple of possible benefits to the church when persecution comes. What possible benefits do you see?
4. What are some ways we can bless someone who is persecuting us?
5. Try sharing your conversion story with the group using the three-step process Pastor George mentioned. (who I was before Christ, how I met Christ, how I'm different because of Christ)
6. How can we be more prepared to identify the deceivers of our world today?
7. Is there someone you know who accepted Christ even though you thought it would be most unlikely for them to do so? What happened?

### **Review and Reflection**

You can count on the Gospel to provoke a reaction, and the way we react will often determine what happens next. If we meet opposition with aggression, we'll only succeed in perpetuating the poisoned dynamics of our present culture. If we aren't prepared to share the process of how Christ can be found, we tease people by introducing the possibility of life change without showing them how. If we aren't discerning and careful, we'll fall for those who seek to lead us astray. And if we aren't patient with those who are honestly seeking and trying, we'll squelch their enthusiasm with expectations that are too high.