



SESSION AIM

Help the group understand how the early Church took the Gospel beyond Jerusalem through power, persecution, and provision, and how God opened doors to the ends of the earth.



BIG IDEA

Empowered by the Spirit and faithful in mission, the Church stepped into the world, and God opened doors, protected His people, and brought many to faith.



RESOURCE CLUSTER:

The Launch of the Church



WORKBOOK SECTION:

“The Church Takes the Message to the World (Acts 8–12)” pp. 134–163



SUGGESTED TIME:

60–75 Minutes

TEACHING FLOW (Follow These Steps in Order)

1



READ SCRIPTURE

- Read Acts 8–12 together.
- Invite God’s Spirit to guide understanding and teaching.

KEY PASSAGES

Acts 8:1–40
Acts 9:1–31
Acts 10–12

2



EXPLAIN WORKBOOK SECTION

- Present the doctrinal content from the workbook.
- Move through the section: expansion → inclusion → opposition → protection.

WORKBOOK REFERENCE

“The Church Takes the Message to the World” pp. 134–163

3



EMPHASIZE KEY TRUTHS

- Highlight the theological emphases of this lesson.
- Keep Christ and His mission at the center.

SEE RIGHT COLUMN

Key Emphases for This Lesson

4



USE VISUALS TO TEACH

- Use timelines and charts to clarify expansion and key events.
- Let visuals reinforce key truths.

RECOMMENDED VISUALS

See Right Column and RC Visuals

5



CLARIFY COMMON CONFUSIONS

- Address likely misunderstandings.
- Strengthen accuracy and clarity.

SEE RIGHT COLUMN

Common Confusions

6



FACILITATE DISCUSSION

- Use the discussion questions to engage the group.
- Encourage thoughtful participation.

SEE BELOW

Discussion Questions

7



APPLY AND RESPOND

- Guide the group to apply truth to life and mission.
- Close in prayer and commitment.

SEE BELOW

Application and Prayer Focus

KEY EMPHASES FOR THIS LESSON



The Gospel Went Out

The message spread beyond Jerusalem through believers’ witness and God’s power.



God Included the Nations

Cornelius and others from every people were welcomed into God’s family.



Opposition Could Not Stop the Mission

Persecution came, but the Church remained faithful and kept advancing.



God Protected His People

The Lord intervened, answered prayer, and delivered His servants.



Many Came to Faith

Thousands believed as the Church obeyed and the Spirit worked.

COMMON CONFUSIONS

- 1 The Church grew only because of strategy.**
Growth came through faithfulness and the Spirit’s work, not human programs.
- 2 God’s inclusion means all beliefs are the same.**
Inclusion means all who trust Jesus are welcome, not that all religions are true.
- 3 Persecution means God is not with us.**
Persecution was real, but God’s presence and power were greater.
- 4 Protection means a trouble-free life.**
God protects and provides, but He still calls us to follow Him in faith.

RECOMMENDED VISUALS

- Acts 8–12 Timeline (Expansion and Key Events)
- Map of the Gospel’s Spread (Jerusalem → Judea → Samaria → Ends of the Earth)
- Key Events in Acts 8–12 Chart (Events and Outcomes)
- Before and After: From Jerusalem to the World (Acts 1:8 in Action)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 What were the main ways the Gospel spread in Acts 8–12?
- 2 What can we learn from Philip’s ministry in Samaria?
- 3 Why was God’s inclusion of the Gentiles so significant?
- 4 How did the Church respond to persecution?
- 5 What do we learn from Peter’s release from prison?
- 6 How can we be faithful witnesses in our world today?

APPLICATION

- Look for opportunities to share the Gospel.
- Welcome and include others as God does.
- Stay faithful when facing opposition.
- Pray for doors to open for the Gospel.
- Trust God to protect and provide.

PRAYER FOCUS

Thank the Father for growing His Church and sending the Gospel to the world. Ask the Spirit to give us courage, love, and faithfulness to share Jesus, to welcome others, and to trust God in every situation.

RELATED RC RESOURCES

WORKBOOK
“The Church Takes the Message to the World (Acts 8–12)” pp. 134–163

GLOSSARY TERMS

- Expansion
- Inclusion
- Persecution
- Provision

VISUAL THEOLOGY

- Acts 8–12 Timeline
- Gospel Spread Map
- Key Events Chart
- Before and After Visual

ARTICLES & MEDIA

- Philip in Samaria
- Cornelius and the Gentiles
- Persecution in Acts
- God’s Protection in Acts

FUTURE ADDITIONS
Videos, podcast episodes, and teaching media will be added.



IMPORTANT REMINDER: Fireproof Studies resources are designed to work together as interconnected theological learning tools rather than isolated documents. The more you use the tools together, the deeper and clearer your understanding—and your teaching—will become.

