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Read this week's scripture and answer the questions below. As you read, consider how these verses fit into what you are seeing or experiencing today. Prepare to share with your small group anything that jumped out at you, confused you, encouraged you, challenged or convicted you.

1. Read Acts 8 verses 1-4. Saul is raging; the apostles are lamenting, the followers are scattering...and preaching. Add it all up: in chaotic circumstances, God is working. Think on these things. What do you need to bring to the Lord: rage, lament, confusion? What do you need from the Lord: peace, direction, courage? Bring these things to him in prayer today.
2. Spend time in verses 5-8, taking a close look at verse 8. The gospel brings great Joy. Does your life bring Joy to others? You know what to do. Pray it out.
3. Read verses 9-17. What stands out to you in this section, for compelling or confusing reasons? Wrestle with the mysteries that are described here. Pray for understanding. Pray for faith.
4. Look into verses 18-24. Peter rebukes Simon for a heart that is not right before God. In what ways have you mixed your own ambitions with the work of God? How have you smuggled your agenda into his? Take these thoughts to prayer today with sober repentance and hope for refreshing.
5. Read verses 25-27. Note Philip's response to angel of the Lord, who calls him to rise and go. Are you being called to rise? Are you being called to go? Are you listening? Are you responding? Bring these thoughts to prayer. Be prepared to bring these thoughts to your small group next week.
6. Read verses 27-39. So much to take in here: the prompting of the spirit, the reading and interpreting of the word, the gospel, the response. Spend time in this story; imagine it. Let it lead you to praise Him.
7. Read verses 39-40. See the spirit leading Philip. See the Joy that abounds in the wake of the gospel. Ask for the strength to keep following, ever more closely, ever more faithfully after Him.