Sermon Summary

Persecution has hit the church in Jerusalem. And this is exactly the catalyst needed to get the gospel to spread further out into the next geographical areas, that of Samaria.
Acts 8 tell the story of how the gospel arrived in Samaria as Philip, then Peter and John start to preach in the towns and villages north of Judea.

Personal Application

Q Read v1-5. What is the cause of the spread of the gospel out from Jerusalem? What does this teach us about how ought to think about the persecution of the church?

Q Read v6-17. What role do the miraculous signs play in the conversion of the Samaritans? What do they put their trust in? (see v12).

Q Why is it important that the Jesus we believe in is the real Jesus that we find in Scripture? Why might people want to invent their own version of Him instead today?

Q In contrast, what does Simon seem to be fixated with? (v13)

Q Read v18-25. What is wicked about what Simon does? Do we see the same thing happening today?
Philip now moves on from Samaria, sent by an angel onto the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza. Here he meets an Ethiopian governmental official, and through this encounter the good news about Jesus has an opportunity to travel to a distant country via a man who is radically converted.

Q Read v26-28. Why has this Ethiopian official made the long return trip to Jerusalem? What else do we know about him?

Q Look up Deuteronomy 23:1. Why would this man have found it difficult to worship at the Jerusalem temple?

Q Read v29-34. What is this man reading? What’s the problem he’s having?

Q What is the “good news about Jesus” (v35) that is specifically revealed by Isaiah in the verses quoted in v32-33?

Q Read v36-40. How does the Eunuch respond to the good news? And how does this episode both encourage and challenge us about sharing the gospel with others?
Sermon Summary

In the first half of chapter 9, Luke switches focus from Philip to Paul (at this point named Saul). Here we have the dramatic story of Saul’s conversion; a committed, zealous persecutor of the Church is floored by Jesus and radically converted! The chapter starts with Saul persecuting the Church (v1), and ends with Saul himself, now part of that Church, being hunted by others (v23, 30)!

Personal Application

Q Read v1-6. Why do you think Saul hated Jesus’ disciples so much? What was it that he detests so much? (Take a look at 6:8-14 as well as 9:13-14 and 21).

Q What do you think went through Saul’s mind when he received the answer to his question in v5?

Q Take a look at the verses below. How do they demonstrate that Saul’s conversion is genuine?

v7-9, 17-19 He is humbled

v20-22 He wants others to know about Jesus

v23, 29 He is hated for his new faith.

v26-28 He has a desire to be with God’s people

Q What does this tell us about what we also should expect as disciples of Christ? Are there things here that we are reluctant to accept as part of following Him?
Sermon Summary

This second half of chapter 9 contains two stories of miraculous healing. The focus now shifts back to Peter, the chief of the Apostles, and here we are given a clear reminder of the authority that Jesus has given to him as His representative. This will be important as we go on into chapter 10, where Peter will become a spokesman for God’s plan to take the gospel to the gentiles.

Personal Application

Q Read v32-35. Compare and contrast this with the way that Jesus healed the paralytic in Luke 5:24-26:

What is the same?

What is different?

Q Read v36-42. Compare and contrast this with the way that Jesus raised the little girl in Luke 8:41-42, 49-56:

What is the same?

What is different?

Q What was the purpose of these miraculous healings?

Q Should we expect to see these kinds of miracles today?

Consider: Galatians 4:12-13
2 Timothy 4:19-20

Q What are the dangers in assuming God will still heal like this today?

Q What does Romans 8:22-25 teach us about our sickness and suffering?