

Acts 8–11 Study Guide for Whiskey & Worship

Acts 8: Gospel on the Move

Focus Areas:

- **Persecution scatters the church**, yet the gospel spreads farther (Acts 8:1–4).
- **Philip in Samaria**: preaching, signs, and many receiving the word (Acts 8:5–13).
- **Simon the magician**: a caution about mixed motives in faith (Acts 8:18–24).
- **Philip & the Ethiopian eunuch**: Spirit-led obedience leading to a life-changing encounter (Acts 8:26–40).

Men's Group Reflection:

- When challenges or pressures hit, do they scatter your focus? Or scatter the gospel through you?
- Are you following the Holy Spirit's nudges like Philip, even when they disrupt your plans?
- Where do your motives need refining? Are there areas where you want the benefits of faith without surrender?
- Who might God be sending you to—someone unexpected, like the Ethiopian—to share God's word?

Acts 9: Transformation and Calling

Focus Areas:

- **Saul's conversion** on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1–19).
- **The courage of Ananias**, who obeys God and ministers to Saul despite fear (Acts 9:10–17).
- **Saul begins preaching** with boldness, facing immediate opposition (Acts 9:20–25).
- **The church grows**, walking in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Spirit (Acts 9:31).
- **Peter's miracles**—Aeneas healed, Tabitha raised (Acts 9:32–43).

Men's Group Reflection:

- Where has God confronted you, like He confronted Saul—calling you to new direction and identity?
- What fears keep you from obeying God like Ananias? Who is God asking you to minister to?
- How has Jesus changed your story? Are you willing to speak boldly about that transformation?
- How do you cultivate a life marked by both reverence for God and comfort in the Holy Spirit?

Acts 10: God's Heart for All People

Focus Areas:

- **Cornelius**, a devout Gentile, seeks God (Acts 10:1–8).
- **Peter's vision** of clean and unclean animals (Acts 10:9–16).
- **Peter meets Cornelius**, realizing God shows no favoritism (Acts 10:24–33).
- **Peter preaches** to Cornelius' household (Acts 10:34–43).
- **The Holy Spirit falls on the Gentiles**, confirming God's open invitation (Acts 10:44–48).

Men's Group Reflection:

- What barriers—cultural, personal, or spiritual—might God be asking you to lay aside?
- Are there people you've written off whom God may be preparing you to reach?
- Where do you see God already working in people you might not expect?

Acts 11: Courageous Leadership

Focus Areas:

- **Peter defends the inclusion of Gentile believers** to the Jerusalem believers (Acts 11:1–18).
- The church recognizes God's work and **praises Him for granting repentance to all** (Acts 11:18).
- **The scattered believers** preach in new regions, and many come to faith (Acts 11:19–21).
- **Barnabas encourages the new believers** and brings Saul to help teach in Antioch (Acts 11:22–26).
- **The disciples respond generously** to help those in need (Acts 11:27–30).

Men's Group Reflection:

- Where do you need to stand firm and testify to God's work in your life, even when questioned?
- Are you an encourager like Barnabas—strengthening other men in faith and purpose?
- How is God calling you to step into mission—locally, relationally, or practically?
- What does generosity look like in your life? With time? Finances? Skills? Compassion?

Practical Applications for Men's Lives

Obedience Challenge:

Identify one "Philip moment" this month—a prompting from God you will intentionally follow, even if it stretches you.

Transformation Reflection:

Reflect on where Jesus has changed you. Share one area of transformation with the group for encouragement and accountability.

Encourager's Practice:

Like Barnabas, choose one man in your social circle to intentionally encourage, support, or mentor this month.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for boldness like Saul, sensitivity like Philip, clarity like Peter, and encouragement like Barnabas. Ask God to expand your influence and deepen your witness.