

St. Jerome Adult Bible Study
The Acts of the Apostles
Study Questions Chapters 6 - 10

1. Who were the first deacons of the Church? Why were they appointed?
2. What was the process of Ordination? Where else is this used? Have you ever been to an Ordination? Have you ever laid your hands on someone such as a sick child or loved one?
3. Consider your personal study of Jewish/Hebrew history as found in the books of Samuel and Kings. How does Stephen's speech to the Sanhedrin parallel your own thoughts about the Hebrew repetitive cycle of covenant, rejection, and reconciliation?
4. How does Stephen compare Moses and Jesus?
5. See vv 51-53 – How powerful a condemnation is it? Why would the Jews become furious?
6. How are Philip and Simon alike? How are they different?
7. In 8:32-35, the scripture is from Isaiah 53. In what way does it describe Christ? It was obviously a wonderful opportunity for Philip to witness. In what ways can we find opportunities to witness?

Paul's Jewish name was Saul, given at birth after his father or some near kin, or even after the famous Old Testament King Saul, who like Paul was from the tribe of Benjamin. Being born in a Roman city and claiming Roman citizenship, Paul (*Paulos*) was his official Roman name. Normally, a citizen would have three names similar to our first, middle, and last names. The New Testament records only the name Paul which would have been the middle or last name, since the first name was usually indicated only by the initial.

8. Considering only the first 8 chapters of Acts, what do we know about Saul so far?
9. See Philippians 3:5. Paul describes himself as a Pharisee. What does that mean?
10. See 9:2. What is "the Way?"
11. Was Saul on a horse?
12. Was Saul's heart open to Jesus? Why or why not?
13. Picture Ananias. He has been asked to pray over the man responsible for persecutions and murders of Christians. How would you feel if you were in his place?
14. The kind of conversion described in 9:1 – 19 is called a "Damascus Experience." Have you ever had one?
15. What does it say about Saul that the Jews wanted to kill him?
16. Why would the Jerusalem disciples still fear Saul? How did they get over their fear?
17. 9:40 – The first time Peter raised anyone from death. What was he feeling? How is his faith now?
18. Why is the story of Cornelius so important?