

Applying the Word (God's Message for Us)

Discussion Topic #1: Persecution

Acts 8:1-3 tells us of how persecution breaks out in Jerusalem. What kinds of persecution are you aware of in our world today? (You may benefit from taking some time to look on your phones at Open Doors USA).

Why might it be good for us to be more aware of persecution of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world? What are some ways we could respond to it?

How do the following passages help us with our response?

Acts 8:2 **1 Corinthians 12:26** **Colossians 4:2-4**
2 Thessalonians 3:1-3 **Hebrews 11:35-12:2**

Discussion Topic #2:

Preparing for Proclamation in the Midst of Persecution

Our nation is not currently in the top 50 most dangerous nations for people to be Christians but it could be some day. We can be pretty comfortable as Christians in our nation. In what ways, though, does comfort lead to complacency?

In **Acts 8:4**, those that were scattered (not the apostles) went about preaching the word. How could we do a better job of preparing ourselves and the next generation for the proclamation of the gospel even if we suffer for it?

How does **1 Peter 3:13-18** motivate us and show us the good news?

Discussion Topic #3: Joy in Whatever Situation

What responses other than joy would you have expected in Samaria due to their current situation (**Acts 8:5-8**)?

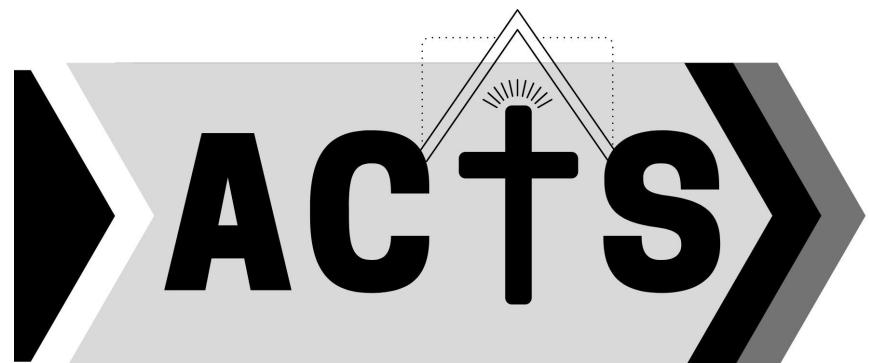
Joy comes not when the situation is ideal but when we are doing what God wants us to do in the places He puts us. Do you think that's true? How might that change how we pray?



February 14, 2021

Breakout

Acts 8:1-8



› Sermon Series › Chapters 8-12 ›

Remember January 2020?

Life seemed more normal for most of us, then. That's when we started a series through the first 7 chapters of Acts. In May we finished chapter 7 and today we pick it up in chapter 8.

Acts is the true story of how Jesus' work continues through Holy Spirit-empowered believers who proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the first 7 chapters, the church expanded in Jerusalem but chapter 7 ended with the execution of a believer named Stephen. Jesus said that the believers would be His witnesses beyond Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

As chapter 8 opens with a breakout of persecution, how will God ensure that the gospel continues to be proclaimed and the church continues to expand?

Pray > Go > Make Disciples

Sermon Notes

When persecution breaks out and scatters the church, the gospel also breaks out...and so does joy.

Introduction: Acts 1-7 Review

Persecution and People Break Out

Acts 8:1-3

Application: Persecution in Our Day

The Gospel Breaks Out

Acts 8:4

Application: Are We Preparing Ourselves and the Next Generation to Proclaim the Gospel Even if Things Get Worse Because of It?

Gospel Application: Christ Suffered to Bring us to God (1 Peter 3:17-18)

Joy Breaks Out

Acts 8:4

Application: When Joy Comes

Life Group Guide

Knowing One Another

Looking back on the past week:

- What are you thankful for?
- What is one way you've seen God at work in/around you?

Caring for One Another

How can we pray for you tonight?

Spend Some Time in Prayer Together

Knowing the Word (God's Message to Them)

It's been awhile since we were in the book of Acts together. Piece together a summary of **Acts 1-7** by having people in your group throw out things you remember or things you see as you page through it.

Read Acts 8:1-8 together.

What was happening to Christians in Jerusalem?

What did many of the believers choose to do as a result?

How did all of that affect Samaria?

Read and Pray Ahead
For Next Week
Acts 8:9-25