

ACTS – Samaria
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Acts 8
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Reflection & Discussion Questions

On the first day of this new year, it can be good to evaluate the past one

- *What criteria do you typically use to evaluate your year?
- *How was 2022 for you? What words pop into your mind as you look back?

The church in Acts 8 has to decide how to respond to a difficult moment

Read and discuss Acts 8:4-8(NIV)

⁴Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. ⁵Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. ⁶When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. ⁷For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸So there was great joy in that city.

- *What does this passage tell us about God? About people?
- *What do you see about the way the people respond? What do you notice about the ways the Gospel expanded?

The Gospel spread because of the people, not the leaders

Those scattered couldn't NOT talk about Jesus.

- *What would 'preaching wherever you go' look like in your context?
- *What do you think faithfulness in conversation means?
- *How does 'preaching' or spreading the Gospel intimidate you?

The Gospel keeps moving to the fringes

This is an expansion of the church's understanding of who Jesus came for.

- *Contemplate or share who 'those people' – people or places you don't want to go - are in your life.
- *How is the Gospel inspiring you to move outward? To stretch yourself?

The early followers of Jesus were not afraid of the darkness, darkness was afraid of them

We were meant to walk into the darkness with the Gospel.

- *How does this statement challenge you?
- *Has being indwelt with the Spirit of the Living God helped you face darkness and fear in your life?

The early believers weren't chasing after good years

They were living for eternity.

- *How can we go beyond just looking to circumstances to evaluate our year?
- *How can preoccupation with our selves and a 'good year' keep us from engaging in moving the Gospel forward?
- *What do you sense the Spirit is telling you about the ways you could live for eternity in 2023? Is there something about fearlessly challenging darkness, moving to the fringes, preaching the word or following the Holy Spirit that He is prompting in you?