

BEYOND

Beyond Walls

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

⁴ Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.⁶ The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. ⁷ For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much rejoicing in that city. ⁹ Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; ¹⁰ and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God." ¹¹ And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. ¹² But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. ¹³ Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

Acts 8:4-13

Big Idea: Christ in His final charge to His disciples had told them to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came to bring them power. Then they were to reach out beyond Jerusalem to share Jesus with the entire world. In 1:8 Jesus gave a pattern for that expansion: "You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Are there people in our society today who are viewed as "less than" others? Describe them.
- How do you think God feels about them?
- How should we treat them?

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- What caused the church to scatter throughout Judea and Samaria after the death of Stephen (8:1)?
- What did they do as they went (8:4)?
- Samaritans were part Jewish blood and part non- Jewish blood. Why do you think this affected how other Jews viewed them?

Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- The persecution faced by the early church forced a complacent people out of their comfort zone and into compliance with God's plan to reach the world with the Gospel (1:8).
- Is there anything in our world today that might force us out of our comfort zone to reach the world with the Gospel? Explain.
- What will it take to push you to share Christ beyond your walls?

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Reaching people is God's job. We just need to be available for Him and for them.
- How will you avail yourself for Him, this week?
- How will you avail yourself for them, this week?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Rather than simply living a life of feigned obedience, we desire to surrender completely to Christ. The proper attitude of a Christian is not, "What can God do for me?" but rather, "What can I do for God? Over the next several weeks we'd like to invite you to pray for how you can move for God.

Jesus, I want to get in on the action. I want to bring people with me to heaven to give you more glory. I want to be used of you to help accomplish your mission of seeking and saving the lost.

Dinner Discussion.

- How can God use us for the sake of building his kingdom, not to build my own little kingdom?
- Philip's bold faith and his willingness to preach Christ wherever God led him should challenge us as witnesses today. Are there people in our community who God is ready to reach if we will just respond to his promptings?

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over online.

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