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BACK *TO THE* FUTURE



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20

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION/PERSONAL GUIDES

WEEK OF
JUNE 28, 2020



**“The State of the Church 2020:
Scattered and Regathering”**
[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

God never _____ anything, and He hasn't intended for us to go on this difficult and challenging journey so that the _____ will be that we just go back to what we were, or just develop a *new normal*.

God wants to lead us to an extraordinary life that we could only begin to experience by having walked through these painful circumstances and _____.

So this past fiscal year, we have been both the church _____ (through March 8) and the church _____ (since March 15).

1. The Church _____ (note Acts 6-8)

Note Acts 2:46-47; 3; 4:21; 4-5; 5:33, 40; 6:8-15; 7:51-60

Not only does the first Church lose one of their best and most _____ young leaders, but Stephen's death was just the start of a long _____ for Jesus followers (note Acts 8:1-3).

We've been living with fear and uncertainty at a level of _____ and for a length of time most of us have never experienced.

But let's be careful to not make the mistake so many people make = thinking that history started when we were born...

Instead, let's put ourselves into this part of the _____ of the Christian Church (note Acts 8:1-3).

Note Acts 12-14; 16-17; 19; 21

So how did the first Church _____ to these horrible circumstances? (note Acts 8:4)

They stayed fully engaged in Jesus's _____ and in fact, reached people they had never reached before (note Acts 8:5, 8).

There was a transformation from a *great persecution* to *great _____*.

2. The Church _____

What did the Jerusalem Church do when they _____?

...reached more people they had never reached before...and kept reaching their _____ (note Acts 21:20a).

Scattered or gathered, the mission of Jesus is the _____!

Instead of back to the future:

- Step 1—Online Campus Enhanced since March 15th:
- Step 2—Initial Return starting July 19th:
- Step 3—Transition starting August 16th:
- Step 4—Moving Forward starting September 13th:

*Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!
Let us know, too, and fill out our digital connect card.*



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: Who has been an encouragement to you during our "Stay at Home" period and why?

1. Have you felt like this journey we've been on has created new normals in your life that you're not happy about?
2. Pastor Tom helped us put our time into the perspective of the history of the Church and how it progressed from advancement to persecution and being being scattered to the four winds. (See [Acts 2:46-47, 4:21, 5:33, 6:8-15, 7:51-60, 8:1-3](#)) How do your responses to our times look in comparison to the church's in Acts?
3. [Read Acts 8:4-8](#). The church was not thwarted in this dispersion, but instead thrived as it stayed mission focused. How might God want to use you and your group in this time of being scattered?
4. Thankfully for the early church, they were able to regather in Jerusalem. As they did so, the focus remained the same—Jesus' mission of reaching lost people. As we look ahead to regathering, how can each of us stay focused on the mission of reaching more people with the Good News of Jesus?
5. What things have you most excited about regathering as a church body, and how can you leverage those things to advance the mission?
6. Take time to pray as a group for wisdom in reconnecting with people, both at in person church as well as in your community and online, as things continue to reopen, that mission focus would be what drives all you do.

PERSONAL GUIDE

DAY 1: [James 1](#)

DAY 2: [James 2](#)

DAY 3: [James 3](#)

DAY 4: [James 4](#)

DAY 5: [James 5](#)





“The State of the Church 2020: Scattered and Regathering”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

God never wastes anything, and He hasn't intended for us to go on this difficult and challenging journey so that the end result will be that we just go back to what we were, or just develop a *new normal*.

God wants to lead us to an extraordinary life that we could only begin to experience by having walked through these painful circumstances and hard times.

So this past fiscal year, we have been both the church gathered (through March 8) and the church scattered (since March 15).

1. The Church Scattered (note Acts 6-8)

Note Acts 2:46-47; 3; 4:21; 4-5; 5:33, 40; 6:8-15; 7:51-60

Not only does the first Church lose one of their best and most effective young leaders, but Stephen's death was just the start of a long nightmare for Jesus followers (note Acts 8:1-3).

We've been living with fear and uncertainty at a level of intensity and for a length of time most of us have never experienced.

But let's be careful to not make the mistake so many people make = thinking that history started when we were born...

Instead, let's put ourselves into this part of the history of the Christian Church (note Acts 8:1-3).

Note Acts 12-14; 16-17; 19; 21

So how did the first Church react to these horrible circumstances? (note Acts 8:4)

They stayed fully engaged in Jesus's mission and in fact, reached people they had never reached before (note Acts 8:5, 8).

There was a transformation from a *great persecution* to *great joy*.

2. The Church Re-Gathered

What did the Jerusalem Church do when they regathered?

...reached more people they had never reached before...and kept reaching their communities (note Acts 21:20a).

Scattered or gathered, the mission of Jesus is the priority!

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