A IISE Q

impacting our culture





NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

Have you ever experienced a complete change in a situation and then wondered how you were going to move forward? What was the situation?

BACKGROUND

The Church underwent change with a single action. The Sanhedrin's decision to stone the disciple Stephen to death, marked the beginning of the Church's persecution and dispersion; all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1). It was Jesus, Himself, who foretold this in Acts 1:8, "[b]ut you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Saul's actions of putting them in jail carried out the persecution of the Jewish leadership.

Despite everything, Philip, one of the seven deacons appointed to assist the apostles in caring for the needs of the growing Christian community, went to a place called Samaria. This was a city of people that Jews believed accursed. They would go out of their way to avoid crossing into this territory.

The disdain the Jewish people had for Samaritans dated back to 722 BC, when the Assyrians took northern Israel into captivity and replaced them with pagan colonists. These colonists intermarried with the remaining Jews. The Samaritans were descendants of these mixed marriages. They built a rival temple on Mount Gerizim and did not follow the Laws of Moses. Philip proclaimed the Messiah and performed confirming signs and miracles. The Gospel message transcended the racial and religious barrier between Jews and Samaritans. So there was much joy in that city (Acts 8:8).

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?





KEY VERSES: Acts 8:4

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

READ: Acts 8:1-8



HEAD LEVEL: What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.

- 1. Where did the Christians scatter to (Acts 8:1)?
- 2. How did Jesus' words get fulfilled in Acts 1:8?
- 3. What was the unintended effect of the persecution of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 8:4)?
- 4. Why did the Samaritan people pay close attention to Philip (Acts 8:6)?

DEEPER DISCOVERY

How did the persecution and scattering begin to fulfill Jesus' words in the following verses:

- John 15:20
- John 16:2



HEART LEVEL: What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.

- 1. What was the benefit of persecution? How do you see this demonstrated in our world today?
- 2. What was Saul's objective in imprisoning Christians?
- 3. Why did Philip go to Samaria?
- 4. How does God use man's evil intentions to further His glory and message? How have you found this evident in your life?





HANDS LEVEL: What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.

- 1. If persecution of Christians arose in your city and you ended up moving, what would you do in that new place? Would you share about Christ?
- 2. How do you remain faithful to God's call wherever He places you?



MEMORY VERSE: Acts 8:4

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)