



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### They Preached the Word Wherever They Went September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

#### Acts 8:1b-8

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup> Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

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

1. Have you experienced a tragic event or a terrible situation which seemed like there was no good that could possibly come from it? Share a story.
2. Compare Saul's role in this section to his role in the 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson from Ephesians 3: 1-13. How does this reversal testify to God's amazing grace?

3. What were the reasonable temptations the believers would've faced in the midst of the persecution?
4. What are the reasonable temptations we are facing in the midst of COVID-19, civil unrest, and a messy election year?
5. The devil smiles when he is able to silence our witness for Christ. With everything going on, what things have made it harder and harder for you to witness your faith to others? How might you overcome those obstacles?
6. Are there any new opportunities you've found where it has been easier to share your faith while all this chaos is going on?
7. God worked wonders even out of terrible persecution. The believers spread the word and it resulted in great joy in the city. How does this encourage you to witness in spite of everything the devil does to try to stop us?
8. Back up each statement with reasons:
  - a. Laypeople have an advantage when it comes to sharing their faith.
  - b. Called workers have an advantage when it comes to sharing their faith.
9. The believers M.O. (modus operandi, operating method) was: they preached the word wherever they went. Let's get practical. How do we make that our Mount Olive M.O. and have it be true for each of us personally?