

### WARM-UP

- What was the strangest place you've visited? What made it different from other places?
- Share a time when someone helped you out recently. How did you respond?
- Have you experienced a recent challenge lately? How did you overcome it?

**WORD** *<sup>1</sup>After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. <sup>2</sup>And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* **LUKE 10:1-2**

(Read also **ACTS 8:1-8.**)

Jesus sent His seventy-two disciples *ahead of him*, to villages He had not yet gone to. He sent them out anticipating a *plentiful* harvest. At the same time, He focused on the need for more workers to preach the gospel and gather in the harvest. As we obey Jesus' command to go, we will encounter many obstacles. But these are not dead ends. Rather, they can become doorways for the gospel to further advance into all the world. Today, we will talk about how every place that God places us in is an opportunity to preach the gospel, regardless of our situation.

## 1 | Preach the gospel in spite of persecution.

*1. . . And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. . . .<sup>4</sup>Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. **ACTS 8:1, 4***

Because they were treated with hostility for following Jesus, even to the point of losing their lives, the disciples scattered across various regions. Any person or family who has gone through a similar change in environment must have been challenged or terrified. However, the disciples chose to preach the gospel in spite of persecution. Have you experienced preaching the gospel despite challenging situations? Tell us about it.

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## 2 | Preach the gospel wherever you are.

*<sup>4</sup>Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. <sup>5</sup>Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. <sup>6</sup>And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. **ACTS 8:4-6***

Traditionally, Samaria and Samaritans were treated differently by Jews because of their cultural differences (see Luke 9:51-56; John 4:4-9). Because of this, they were distrustful of anything Jesus or His followers had to say. However, when Philip obeyed Jesus and preached the gospel even where

he had fled, they *paid attention* to him. What are some communities or friend groups you are a part of right now?

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### 3 | Preach the gospel with God's power.

*<sup>6</sup>And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. <sup>7</sup>For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. <sup>8</sup>So there was much joy in that city. **ACTS 8:6-8***

By the power of God, many unclean spirits left and many who were sick were healed as Philip preached the gospel. In the same way, God shows His love and power as we preach to others. As we obey Him, joy comes to those who hear His word and experience His power. Identify some opportunities to preach the gospel in your life. Which communities can you reach out to?

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When we understand that God's sovereignty brings us to places we never knew we would go, we can begin to see that His command to preach the gospel is constant. More than this, we see how He goes before us and demonstrates His power as we obey. When we preach the gospel, we will see more cities experience joy and more individuals believe in Christ and publicly express it.

## APPLICATION

- Is there anything causing you to hesitate in preaching the gospel? What is one way you can address your hesitation this week?
- Knowing that God's presence and power is with us, how should our attitude be as we preach the gospel to those around us?
- Is there a person or a community you have been praying to preach the gospel to? How can you start the conversation with them this week?

## PRAYER

- Thank Jesus for His salvation and the good news that we are now a part of His family. Thank Him for the person and the community who led you to Christ.
- Pray that you will continue to grow in the boldness to preach the gospel to your family, your friends, and your community.
- Ask God to go before you and open the ears and hearts of those you will preach the gospel to, believing that He will demonstrate His power as you obey.



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