

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Word October 19, 2025

Summary

When life feels uncertain or difficult, God is still at work. In this first message of the *Within Reach* series, Kyle teaches from Acts 8 and shows that what initially appeared to be a disaster for the early church—the persecution and scattering of believers—was actually part of God’s plan to spread the gospel farther. God’s purpose always prevails, especially through people who live faithfully by His Word. Philip is an example of this: He was obedient and ready to share the good news wherever he went. In the same way, God has intentionally placed each of us where we are—our workplaces, families and neighborhoods—so that those within our reach might come within reach of the gospel. Our calling is to be people of the Word who view our circumstances through God’s eyes and join Him in expanding His kingdom.

Scripture

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

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city. Acts 8:1-8 (NIV)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NIV)

Let’s Start

In the message, Kyle compared life to a checkerboard—God sees the whole board, while we only see one move at a time. What area of your life do you wish you could see more of from God’s perspective?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God been at work in your life since we last met?

Let’s Talk

1. When have you experienced a “day of trouble” that later revealed God’s purpose?
2. Acts 8:4 says the scattered believers “preached the word wherever they went.” What helps or hinders you from sharing your faith naturally in everyday life?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. Philip was faithful in serving widows before he preached in Samaria. How does faithfulness in small things prepare us for greater impact?
4. Who is someone “within reach” of your life who might be within reach of the gospel? What is one way you could pray for or reach out to that person this week? What are other ways we can ***find those who are missing***?
5. What does it look like for you personally to be a “person of the Word” in your current situation?

Let's Act

Ask God to bring to mind one (or more) person—at work, in your neighborhood or in your family—who may be within reach of the gospel. Begin praying daily for opportunities to show them Christ's love or share your faith naturally.

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