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## Kingdom Seeds

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**Introduction:** Acts 8 begins with the persecution of the church that began after the murder of Stephen. The assault was led by a zealous Jewish leader . . . named Saul. There was such a hatred towards the message of the gospel that he ravaged the homes of believers and sent them to prison. The Christians fled to the surrounding areas while spreading the good news of Jesus with them.

**Text: Acts 8:1-8**

**Discussion:**

1. Icebreaker: What do you know about the persecution of the Christian faith? What are some modern day examples of physical persecution of Christians?
2. Acs 7:54-8:1-3 Write/Discuss your view of Saul. How would you describe him and why would he be so violent against Christians? Why do you think some people hate the Christian message? Have you ever had an encounter or conversation with someone that was hateful towards your faith?
3. We have seen the attack on the apostles, we have witnessed the martyr of one of the leaders in the church, now we see an attack on the church. Why do you think they began attacking believers in their home? What is the motive of persecuting someone?
4. The enemies of Christ meant evil toward the believers. They wanted to silence their message. The Lord, however, meant it for good. The good news of the gospel was not silenced but was spread. The Greek verb for “scattered” means “as a farmer sows seed.” The persecution served as a means of sowing the seeds of the gospel. The Christians were individual “kingdom seeds” that the Lord used to share the good news of Jesus. How does this demonstrate the sovereignty of God in all our circumstances?
5. Acts 8:4—They “gossiped the gospel.” The believers did not see themselves as refugees but as missionaries. They did not cry or complain about their circumstance. They used the situation to tell of the good news of Jesus. They witnessed where they were planted. How can you become more aware of your situation and gossip the gospel in your every day life? Where has God planted you to share the good news? Who can you invite to church or begin a gospel conversation?
6. What message did Philip bring to the people of Samaria?
7. What was the result of the faithfulness to the preaching of God’s word?
8. How does the gospel bring joy?

**Think About it:**

There is no person, institution, or government that will stop the church! Jesus is head of the church, he builds the church, and he stated that the gates of hell will not prevail. Persecution does not prevent Christianity but helps it spread. Tertullian, a second century Christian, stated that, “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.” The Lord is in complete control and will use the evil intents of people for the good of his glory. Never allow your circumstance and life situation to deter your faith in Christ. He will use you in all seasons of life.

**Moving Forward:**

Pray for the believers who are undergoing persecution today. Look up voice of the martyrs web site and see how God is still spreading the good news through the scattering of persecution. Make it an intentional effort this week to gossip the gospel. Use your every day encounters as a way to sow the seed of the gospel in peoples lives.