



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

"The Challenge of Wineskins and the Great Commission"

Acts 8:1-8

Record your insights & observations from this week's sermon.

SERMON NOTES

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Read *Acts 1:8; Mark 2:22*. In the setting of Jesus' ministry, what was His point to the disciples in the context of Judaism and the Mosaic Law? Talk about specific aspects that you can think of.
- 2) Read *Acts 6:1-5*. What do you imagine the tensions must have been for the Hellenistic Jews (from Gentile nations) in contrast to the Hebraic Jews (native born Jews in land of Israel)? What attitudes and cultural differences may have been among them. Are there such cultural differences in our church?
- 3) As the church was exploding supernaturally in Jerusalem, (read *Acts 6:7*) what would have led the church to only focus on Jewish people for evangelism and church planting? Read *Acts 7:54-58*. What was Stephen declaring to the Jewish leaders in the temple about their sins and responses to Jesus? How did this set the stage for the church to move out? What do you think about Paul's role at that time? Is anyone beyond the reach of Christ?
- 4) Read and consider what Jesus told us to do in *Matthew 9:37-38*. Ekballo means to "throw out, cast out." It is often a violent action in the New Testament. Since this was a forceful word Jesus used, why should we pray for the Father to do this for the sake of the harvest?
- 5) **MAYBE YOU SHOULD SKIP THIS SECTION:** (Don't say you weren't warned!) Read *Acts 8:1-8*. What was the connection of ekballo (throw out) to this persecution? What was the result on the church's missionary awareness? Are you willing to pray with understanding what Jesus has instructed us to do (willingness to go wherever He wants us to go and to use whatever means of His choosing to get us in motion)? Be honest.
- 6) Discuss the people groups that are around us. Name them. Like the Jerusalem church, do you think in Farragut and Knoxville that we also are not seeing who is out there and unreached? How do you think our "church" ideas and structures may prevent us from seeing them? What bias or way of thinking is hindering us? What can we do about this?

FOR YOUR FAMILY

- 1) Memorize *Matthew 9:37-38*— "*Then He said to his disciples, '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.'*"
- 2) Read *Acts 8:1-6; 8:14-17*. (In the beginning of the expansion of the church, the Spirit did not fall on these people until God confirmed to the Apostles that indeed He was saving the Samaritans just like he did the Jews). Talk to your family about ways God wants us to know His love for those who don't know Jesus. Ask them for examples.
- 3) Talk about people who are around us. Spend time praying for them and discuss ways you can reach out as a family.