



10

The Gospel Spreads

Key Theme

- God is sovereign over all things.

Key Passages

- Acts 8:1–8, 8:26–40; Romans 8:28–30

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain how the gospel spread in Samaria.
- Explain how the gospel spread to Ethiopia.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Write on the board, “How does persecution promote the spread of the gospel?”



Studying God's Word

The followers of Jesus were being persecuted in Jerusalem for their faith and belief in Jesus Christ. However, God used it for good. The Christians were scattered as they left their homes to avoid the persecution. And as they moved, the gospel moved with them and spread quickly. In addition to this, God used Philip in a special way. Philip preached to the Ethiopian official who believed, was baptized, and likely took the gospel back to Ethiopia!

Study the Prepare to Share section.

Go Before the Throne.



Activity: Providential Outcomes

The students will consider God's providential work of allowing the persecution in order to bring about the spread of the gospel and the salvation of sinners.

Student Guides

Pencils



Activity: Truth Be Told Review Game (Optional)

The students will review the lesson by playing a board game.

Truth Be Told Game Board and Answer Key

Game pieces for each team

Truth Be Told Question and Number Cards

Poster putty



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

Just before His ascension back to heaven, Jesus gave His disciples one last command. They were to go and make disciples of all nations, teaching others to observe the things Jesus had commanded. In light of this command, Jesus promised He would be with them always (Matthew 28:18–20). Not only that, but Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit would come and help them to carry out this last command (John 16:7–8; Acts 1:8). And on the day of Pentecost, in Jerusalem, the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, began to preach, and many were added to the church (Acts 2:41).

Things quickly changed in Jerusalem. The atmosphere for Jesus's followers was rapidly becoming quite tense. The disciples were gaining popularity, and the Lord was adding to the church daily by bringing believers to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 2:47). This was unacceptable in the eyes of the priests, the captain of the Temple, and the Sadducees. These men were disturbed that the truth about Jesus Christ—His life, death, and Resurrection—was being preached and being believed. And they made it their mission to stop the apostles from preaching (Acts 4:2–3). The disciples were arrested and forbidden to preach in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:17–18). But, the arrests, criticism, and condemnation only served to make the apostles more bold in their preaching as they prayed for the help and courage the Holy Spirit could bring (Acts 4:29–31).

As the apostles continued to preach, the religious leaders became even angrier. The tensions continued to rise until Stephen, the first martyr for Jesus, was dragged from the city and stoned to death for proclaiming the gospel (Acts 7:54–59). Things went from bad to worse for the Christians, and they were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria because of the violent persecution (Acts 8:1–3).

So what was going on? What was God's plan? Why were Jesus's followers being arrested, beaten, killed, and run out of town? The answer? So the Word and truth about Jesus Christ would spread—and spread quickly. Until now not many had preached Jesus in Judea and Samaria. But here we read that those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the Word. The Bible tells us specifically about Philip who went down to the city of Samaria, where he was able to preach Christ, minister to the people, and bring joy in the truth to that city (Acts 8:4–8).

The Bible also tells us of God's supernatural interven-

tion, through the appearance of an angel, to send Philip on another missionary trip to the south along the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. As he journeyed, Philip was given the opportunity to preach to an Ethiopian eunuch. This man of Ethiopia listened to Philip as he explained the book of Isaiah and clarified that it was Jesus Christ of whom the prophet Isaiah was writing. The Ethiopian believed what he heard about Jesus and was baptized, right there and then! And because he was a man of great authority in Ethiopia who worked for Queen Candace, it is likely his testimony and changed life did much to further the gospel in that region (Acts 8:27).

The early Christians were suffering severe persecution—even to death. They ran for their lives from their persecutors. But God was working. What the believers were experiencing would actually further the spread of the gospel and grow the church, not only into Judea and Samaria, as mentioned in Acts 8:1, but also beyond to the Gentiles, as we see in Acts 11:19–21:

Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists [Gentiles], preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

Persecution is real. And in God's goodness and sovereignty, He ordains persecution and uses it to grow His church and fulfill the Great Commission. It started in the first century, when the Christians were scattered and went everywhere preaching the word (Acts 8:1). And it continues today.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

God is committed to His purposes, one of which is to reach all nations with the good news of the life, death, and Resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. And one of the means God uses to fulfill this purpose is persecution.

In the early chapters of Acts, we see how the Jerusalem church enjoyed wonderful fellowship and had a good reputation. There was strong unity among believers. Through the church there was powerful preaching of the kingdom of God (Acts 2:46–47). The Bible tells us that mighty, miraculous signs and wonders were being done by the apostles. People were being healed, the Word was spreading, and multitudes of men and women were being

added to the church (Acts 5:12–16). Who would want to leave a church like that? These church members in Jerusalem, no doubt, were basking in the blessings of God.

But Jesus had promised the coming of the Holy Spirit who would empower His people to be His witnesses not only in Jerusalem but also to Judea, Samaria, and far beyond its borders (Acts 1:8). And He had commissioned His disciples to go and make disciples of the nations (Matthew 28:19–20).

So, what did God do? He used the persecution of these early believers to get them to leave the comfort of their homes and the blessing of a thriving fellowship as they sought to avoid imprisonment, torture, and often death. As they fled, their faith was strengthened, and the truth of Jesus Christ went with them as they journeyed to distant lands. In this, God’s plan to preach the gospel to all nations was being carried out. The church may well have eventually awakened to her calling to send missionaries to other lands, but for now, God would use this season of persecution to motivate His people to grow His church.

God’s will was done! And the Christians who were scattered because of the persecution went everywhere preaching the Word (Acts 8:4).

The truth spread first into Judea and Samaria and, by the third century, had extended into what we know today as Western Europe, North Africa, Eastern Europe, Southwest Asia, Central Asia, and India.

Church history tells us of the journeys of apostles and other church leaders as they endeavored to fulfill Jesus’s Great Commission. There is some tradition that James, the brother of John, may have traveled to Spain and established churches there before returning to Jerusalem. Thomas is said to have traveled to India with the gospel. In fact, the churches of western India trace their origins to Thomas and refer to themselves as the Thomas Church. Tradition also puts Bartholomew in India where he was eventually martyred. Thaddeus is said to have ministered in Armenia. And others traveled far and wide with the life-giving gospel—all prompted by the persecution experienced in the first century.

Whenever persecution has come, and God’s people have been scattered, the gospel has gone with them. In fact, it has been said that ease and comfort are enemies of the gospel more than need and persecution. We are witnessing that in our culture today as churches focus more on how large they can become and what innovative technology they can use to attract the culture, seeming to care less about taking the saving message of the true gospel to those who need so desperately to hear it.

Often comfort, ease, affluence, and prosperity cause terrible apathy in the church. Material blessings that

should produce more personnel, more energy, and more funds for the cause of Christ and His kingdom often produce the exact opposite—weakness, indifference, laziness, self-centeredness, and preoccupation with security.

The Bible has much to say about loving the world (1 John 2:15) and building up for ourselves treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19). We are warned by the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 6:10 that, “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” Interestingly, recent studies have shown that it is low-income families that are the most generous group in America. The poorest fifth of U.S. households contribute an average of 4.3 percent of their incomes to charitable organizations. The richest fifth give just 2.1 percent. In other words, the poorest members of the church are twice as generous as the richest members. Some might say we are too comfortable and too wealthy to understand the urgency of the gospel.

What is the answer? It would not be to seek persecution, for God alone knows when each of us is ready to stand up under the evils of the wicked one (Ephesians 6:13). But we can examine our own hearts and ask ourselves some penetrating questions: Is the prosperity of our culture and our churches furthering the cause of Christ, or is it a hindrance to self-sacrifice in taking the gospel to other lands? How does our personal giving to missions and to the church compare to the rest of our spending? Does it reflect Christ’s command to preach the gospel to all nations? And, are we prepared to suffer for Christ in order to grow His church?

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Sovereign Lord, Savior, Teacher, I praise you because you direct the events in our lives for good. These early church saints suffered persecution for the sake of the gospel, and the church grew in response to their suffering. Help us to learn from this lesson. You will use all things—even our suffering—to fulfill your plan. I pray for courage, Lord, to stand firm for you in the midst of trials, ridicule, and suffering for your name’s sake. Please inspire my students this week. Bring them to a saving knowledge of who you are, your greatness, and the importance of the gospel. Then give them courage to trust that you will guide, direct, and accomplish your will in all circumstances.



Review

In our last lesson, we looked at the beginning of persecution in the church, starting with a scolding from the Sanhedrin and escalating to the martyrdom of Stephen for teaching the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus as the only hope of salvation.

It has been said that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. Today we are going to look at that statement in light of what happened in Acts 8 and how God used the persecution and other means to spread the gospel.

As we begin our lesson, I want you to remember the command of Jesus to the disciples on the day He ascended to heaven. Listen as I read Acts 1:8: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Let's learn how that plan was accomplished.



➤ Write on the board, "How does persecution promote the spread of the gospel?"

Acts 8:1-8



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Let's read Acts 8:1-8 together. *Have someone read the passage aloud.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Whose death is being referred to in verse 1? *This is referring back to the stoning of Stephen.*
- ? What was Saul's role in the stoning of Stephen? *He was present, in agreement, and held the cloaks of those who stoned Stephen (7:58).*
- ? What actions did Saul take toward the Christians? *He made havoc of the church, placing both men and women in prison.*
- ? What does Acts 9:1-2 add to our understanding of Saul's attitude? *Saul was committed to traveling around the region to persecute the Christians and bring them to Jerusalem for trial.*
- ? What happened to the church in Jerusalem in the period after Stephen's stoning? *A great persecution arose.*
- ? What happened to Stephen's body? *It was buried by the devout men of the church.*
- ? What happened as a result of this persecution? *The members of the church scattered.*

➤ You can refer the students to the New Testament History Poster where the persecution by Saul and preaching in Samaria are mentioned at AD 34.

- ? **Did every Christian leave Jerusalem?** *Based on later remarks, it is clear that not every single Christian left Jerusalem. Refer to Acts 9:26–30 where there were still disciples and apostles in Jerusalem after Saul’s conversion. Also, Acts 8:4 says “those who were scattered” went preaching, suggesting it was only some of the Christians, not every single person.*
- ? **Where did they scatter to?** *They went to the regions of Judea and Samaria; north and south of Jerusalem.*
- ? **Who did not leave Jerusalem?** *The apostles remained in Jerusalem.*
- ? **What did they do as they went?** *They went everywhere preaching the word.*
- ? **What does the phrase “preaching the word” mean?** *This is a shorthand way of describing the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. (See also Mark 2:2; Acts 8:25, 11:19, 13:5; 2 Timothy 4:2.)*
- ? **How should we understand the word “everywhere” in this context?** *Rather than meaning absolutely everywhere in the world, the context makes it clear that it means in all of the places the disciples had scattered.*
- ? **In the intro to 1 Peter 1:1–2, how does Peter refer to the Christians who had been scattered?** *He calls them pilgrims of the Dispersion. From the Greek word diaspora, which means to scatter seeds, we get the picture of people being planted in various areas to grow the church. There were various stages of dispersion and to different areas in the early church.*
- ? **Who are we introduced to in Acts 8:4?** *Philip.*
- ? **How is Philip referred to in Acts 21:8?** *He is called Philip the evangelist.*
- ? **Where did Philip go?** *He went to the city of Samaria, the former capital of the kingdom of Israel and the region from which the Samaritans came. The location here is not just the general region of Samaria, but the city.*
- ? **What did he do there?** *He preached Christ to them.*
- ? **How many people was he preaching to?** *Multitudes.*
- ? **What did Philip do to confirm his message?** *He did miracles, casting out demons and healing the paralyzed and lame.*
- ? **How did the people respond to the preaching?** *They heeded Philip’s message with one accord.*
- ? **What filled the city?** *Joy.*
- ? **Why was there joy?** *They were joyful in their response to the gospel, presumably that they had found forgiveness in Jesus the Messiah.*
- ? **What is the relationship between verses 4 and 5?** *It seems that verse four is a general statement, and verse 5 gives us one specific example of the preaching and response.*

1 Peter 1:1–2

Discover the Truth

The command Jesus gave the disciples was being fulfilled. They had preached Christ in Jerusalem, and now the message was spreading to Judea and Samaria. As a result of Philip’s preaching, many believed in Christ, and Peter and John went to the Samaritans and laid their hands on them to

Wise

Sovereign

Faithful

give them the gift of the Holy Spirit. Then they continued to testify and preach in the name of Jesus to other Samaritan villages. This was a major point of unity within the church as the Jewish Christians from Jerusalem acknowledged God's work among the Samaritans whom they would have previously seen as their enemies. And this was happening all over the region as those who were scattered by the persecution preached the word.

- ? What two attributes of God are evident as we think about the circumstances God used to spread the gospel in Judea and Samaria? *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. God demonstrated His wisdom and sovereignty in using the circumstances of persecution to take people from Jerusalem to the surrounding regions to proclaim the gospel.*

God often uses what we would think of as negative circumstances to bring about His plans. But in those times we must remember that He is faithful to bring about His perfect will. The preaching of the gospel is powerful to save all who hear it. It has nothing to do with who the preacher is but everything to do with the Savior's work of redemption and the Spirit's work of conviction enabling the sinner to repent and believe in Jesus Christ.



READ THE WORD

Acts 8:26–40

Let's move down the page to Acts 8:26–40 and examine another opportunity Philip had to preach the gospel. *Have someone read the passage aloud.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

► Connect the past to the present by reminding the students that the city of Gaza still exists today on the Mediterranean coast.

- ? How did Philip receive this assignment? *He was told by an angel of the Lord.*
- ? Where was Philip to go? *He was to go to the road that went south from Jerusalem toward Gaza.*
- ? What is this area like? *It is a desert.*
- ? How did Philip respond? *He arose and went. It seems he did not delay, but obeyed immediately. It is unclear if he had returned to Jerusalem, but that seems likely.*
- ? Who did Philip encounter on the road? *He encountered a man from Ethiopia in a chariot.*
- ? Who was this man? *He is described as man of great authority in charge of the treasury under the queen of Ethiopia.*
- ? What office would this be similar to in our context? *He would be the Secretary of the Treasury or Minister of Finance of a nation in a modern context.*
- ? What does it mean that he was a eunuch? *This likely refers to the fact that he had been emasculated or castrated, though the term can also refer to a government official. Being unable to have children, eunuchs were trusted to have power in a kingdom with no threat of raising a dynasty to overthrow the leader.*

- ? **Why had he been in Jerusalem?** *He was there to worship God, but we are not told which festival he may have been there for.*
- ? **What was the eunuch doing?** *He was in his chariot, reading from the book of Isaiah.*
- ? **How did Philip know to talk to him?** *He had not heard what the man was reading yet, but was directed by the Spirit to approach the chariot.*
- ? **How did Philip respond to the Spirit's direction?** *He ran to the chariot indicating immediate obedience as before.*
- ? **What did Philip hear as he approached the chariot?** *He heard the eunuch reading.*
- ? **How did Philip engage the eunuch?** *He asked him if he understood what he was reading.*
- ? **What does the eunuch's response indicate?** *He could not understand what the prophet was saying and needed guidance.*
- ? **What passage was he reading?** *He was reading what we refer to as Isaiah 53:7-8.*
- ? **What specific question did the eunuch have about the text?** *He did not understand if the prophet was speaking of himself or someone else.*
- ? **How did Philip respond to this question?** *He used the passage as a starting point to preach about Jesus.*
- ? **How did Philip preach Jesus from this passage?** *While we are not told directly, we can assume that Philip explained how Jesus was led to the slaughter of the Cross and died as the sacrificial Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world. Since the text says "beginning at this Scripture," Philip surely used other passages and ideas from elsewhere in the Old Testament to teach the Ethiopian about the gospel.*
- ? **How did the man respond?** *He believed what Philip preached, and he asked to be baptized. (Note that verse 37 is not included in some translations as it is not found in the oldest manuscripts and appears to be a later addition by a scribe.)*
- ? **What happened to Philip after the baptism as they were coming up out of the water?** *He was caught up by the Spirit and taken to Azotus (modern-day Ashdod about 20 miles north of Gaza).*
- ? **What did this indicate to the eunuch and those who would have witnessed it?** *It would be a supernatural confirmation that Philip was indeed a messenger from God.*
- ? **What biblical imagery might this have evoked for the eunuch?** *He may have connected this to Elijah being taken away.*
- ? **How did the eunuch respond to all of this?** *He was rejoicing as he went on his way home.*
- ? **What might the eunuch have done along the way and once he reached his homeland?** *He likely told others of the good news that he had learned, spreading the gospel into northern Africa.*
- ? **What did Philip do from that point on?** *He preached the gospel from Azotus to Caesarea as he moved north along the coast.*

- ? What connection does this passage have to Paul's explanation of the spread of the gospel in Romans 10:14–17? *It was necessary for a preacher to be sent to proclaim the gospel so that the Ethiopian could respond to the message.*

Discover the Truth

Just as God had used Philip to proclaim the gospel to the Samaritans, the Word of the Lord was proclaimed to the Ethiopian. Directed by an angel and led by the Spirit to this man, Philip was faithful and obedient to preach the same message that had brought him freedom from his sin. Undoubtedly, as the eunuch returned to the queen's court, he carried that same message of hope in Jesus as the Savior of the world. He may have used the same scroll he was reading as he encountered Philip to teach others about Jesus.

The gospel had been proclaimed in Judea and Samaria, and now it was on its way to the ends of the earth so that all nations could hear of the redemption bought for them through the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God slain for the sins of the world.





Providential Outcomes

MATERIALS

- Student Guides
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

In your Student Guide you will find an activity titled “Providential Outcomes.” There are some questions for you to consider in light of God’s providential guidance of the persecution and spreading of the gospel that we have been discussing. *Have the students work through the questions in small groups.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Let’s talk about what you discovered in these verses.

1. **When you consider the persecution of the early church in Jerusalem, how do the principles of Romans 8:28–30 apply to what was happening?** *There are two basic applications. First, God uses those things that seem bad to us to bring about good things in the end. The goal is the sanctification of those God is calling to Himself. God intends to make them more like Jesus, and He may use persecution to do so. Second, there must be a hearing of the gospel message (the call) so that those who are predestined can respond to the call. The persecution of the church in Jerusalem caused them to spread so that they could go “everywhere preaching the word.” Those in the surrounding areas were able to hear the gospel as a result of the persecution.*
2. **How does this principle relate to Joseph’s words in Genesis 50:20?** *Joseph’s brothers had intended to harm Joseph by selling him, but God orchestrated the events to bring about good by saving the lives of many from the famine, including the children of Israel who would later inherit the Promised Land. If this had not happened, the Messiah could not have been born of the tribe of Judah. In the*

same manner, the persecution from the evil Jews in Jerusalem was used by God to spread the message of the gospel to Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth (Ethiopia) just as Jesus had directed them.

3. **How does the persecution connect to the words of Jesus in John 10:16?** *Jesus knew that there would be many who would respond to the gospel outside of the Jews (this fold) who would be unified under the one Shepherd who died for all of them. These sheep from other folds would respond to His voice when they heard the call of the gospel (John 10:25–30).*
4. **As you consider all of the circumstances and all of the people involved in the different aspects of the spreading of the gospel in the early part of Acts, how does this help you to understand the sovereignty and wisdom of God?** *It may be helpful to consider how little control we have over the situations we try to direct in our own lives. Just trying to direct a family of five, for example, has so many variables that we cannot actually consider ourselves as having control to direct things to ends we would like. God can direct the interactions of billions of people and their circumstances to bring about the ends He intends—all according to the counsel of His will. God is awesome in His wisdom and sovereignty.*

It is important for us to remember that God works all things according to the counsel of His will. Even through trials and persecutions, He is working out His plans, bringing about the ends He intends. For those of us who are in Christ and called according to His purpose, we can have absolute confidence that our all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God can bring about our ultimate glorification even though it may mean we personally face some bitterness in His providence.





Truth Be Told Review Game (Optional)

MATERIALS

- Truth Be Told Game Board
- Truth Be Told Question Cards
- Truth Be Told Question Answer Key
- Truth Be Told Number Cards (or game spinner or dice)
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team
- Poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide your class into teams. Teams will take turns drawing a Truth Be Told Question Card. Team members will take turns answering the questions. They will quickly determine an answer and give it. If they are correct, they will draw a Truth Be Told Number Card and move that number of spaces on the game board. As play proceeds, follow the directions on the game board. Alternate between teams as long as time permits.

We are going to review now by playing "Truth Be Told." I'll put you into teams. Teams will take turns picking a question card

and answering the question. If the answer is correct, you will draw a number card and move your game piece that many spaces. All directions on the board must be followed. Return the used cards to the stacks. *Answers to the questions are provided on the Truth Be Told Question Answer Key on the Resource DVD-ROM.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Good playing! *Congratulate the winning team.*

God used the persecution of Christians in Jerusalem for His good purpose. The people scattered in order to avoid being arrested, and they took the good news about Jesus Christ with them. God even sent Philip on a special journey—one that would take the gospel even farther away—all the way to Ethiopia!



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

God intended for the gospel to spread. He wasn't going to let it be confined to Jerusalem. To accomplish His plans, He brought persecution to those Christians living in Jerusalem so that they would scatter and take the hope-giving message of the gospel with them. He caused a wind to blow that scattered the seeds of truth far and wide. Just as securing salvation was a costly endeavor—requiring the death of the Son of God—so is spreading the message of the gospel. It costs comfort, security, and sometimes even the lives of many people.

In Acts 8, we have an example of someone who left his comfort to do the things that God had called him to do. Philip went to the Samaritans

even though he had probably been raised to hate them. He then set out on a journey, not knowing where he was going or what he would do, only to be directed by the Spirit to talk to a man of great influence from another nation and see God bring him to salvation. Through Philip's acts of obedience, the gospel was proclaimed and received with joy by many. Those people were then able to share with others who would share with others until one day the glorious gospel was proclaimed to each of us. And that continues today, even in places where there is persecution and martyrdom.

Just as God uses the "foolishness" of the gospel to call many to Himself, He uses persecution to spread the message. While we would not choose these methods for ourselves, we can trust in God's wisdom and know that His plans and ways are perfect to accomplish all He desires.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

- ? Think about our world today. Where do you see the gospel spreading as the result of persecution or simply by faithful witnesses proclaiming it to others? *Discuss various answers, drawing from current examples. For example, the church is growing in China in the face of government persecution. There are many examples of faithful missionaries and evangelists speaking the words of life to those in foreign countries or even in their own communities.*
- ? Many people today believe that the gospel cannot be preached unless you first build friendships with people. How do these accounts of Philip show that idea to be false? *While there is nothing wrong with building relationships with the hope of sharing the gospel, it sometimes leads people to procrastinate in doing so. These accounts show that the proclamation, both publically and personally, of the gospel is an appropriate method. Philip was able to interact with the Ethiopian with just a simple question opening the door for sharing the truth. There are many people who believe in God, as the eunuch did, but have not had the gospel explained to them. We have the privilege and responsibility of carrying out that task.*
- ? How have you seen God at work in you to spread the gospel? *Discuss various answers, encouraging the students to be intentional in this area as they interact with people at work, school, while travelling, etc.*
- ? How do you identify with Philip? Are you ready and willing to go where the gospel needs to be proclaimed? *Discuss various answers.*
- ? As you understand more about how God has providentially worked in history, how should you respond to that understanding? *God's providence should lead us to offer Him worship and then move us to share all that He has done with others.*





MEMORY VERSE

Romans 1:16–17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”



GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God for the trials that come to our lives, giving us opportunities to share the gospel.
- Praise God for His wisdom in orchestrating the spread of the gospel.
- Ask God for wisdom to hear the call of the Spirit to share the gospel at every opportunity.