

## ONE STORY | ONE MISSION - The Church Expands

### Small Group Discussion Guide // April 22, 2018

Read Acts 1:6-9 & Acts 8:1 prior to meeting with your group.

1. **Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that challenged, intrigued, surprised, bothered, confused, or was new to you?**
2. Sunday, Scott talked about how the very persecution that sought to eradicate the Christian movement becomes the catalyst for its expanded witness and outreach far beyond its origins in Jerusalem.  
**Why do you think it is that persecution can, at times, help the church to thrive?**
3. Few, if any, of us will give our physical lives in the same way the apostles and Stephen did. *(Read Luke 9:57-62 and Mark 10:17-22)*  
**The cause of Christ still begs the question, is this worth dying for? And if it is not our lives that we are asked to give, what are you willing to give up if God asks you to? What are you holding on to that is preventing you from being able to be the ambassador that Christ needs you to be?**
4. The disciples wondered if the time had finally come that Jesus was going to restore the kingdom of Israel to its people. They were unable to grasp that the real kingdom Christ came to establish was not an earthly kingdom, but a heavenly kingdom. *(Acts 1:6)*  
**Where are some places we get our eyes stuck on what we want to see instead of what God is trying to do?**
5. It's not the person from the radically different culture on the other side of the world that is hardest to love, but the nearby neighbor whose skin color, language, rituals, values, ancestry, history, and customs are different from our own. Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans.  
**With whom do you have no dealings? How might God be calling you to put aside your comfort and carry out His mission?**
6. **What is one thing you need to remember or act on this week as a result of this teaching and study? What accountability do you need to ensure action?**