



How It Started, How It's Going

Getting to know each other:

Share the story of an experience from your childhood that has impacted and/or shaped who you are now.

Read Acts 1:8

1. If the back of your Bible has a map, look up the locations of this verse in the order that Jesus mentions them. What do you notice here?
2. Read God's covenant with Abraham in Genesis 22:17-18. What parallels do you see between this covenant and Jesus' words in Acts 1:8? What does this comparison show you about God?
3. When Jesus told his disciples they would receive power to do their job, e.g. be his witnesses, how do you think they should have expected that job to go? Can you relate to having had those kinds of expectations in your own service for Christ? What have you learned as you have served Christ more?

Read Acts 8:1-8

4. Making Observations: What is the ultimate response to Stephen's witness of the gospel (Chapter 7) and how does ultimately God us that response for his purposes?
5. In the sermon, Pastor Silverio said that the Gospel challenges deeply held convictions. Can you relate to that statement? If so, what are some prior (or present) convictions that learning about the Gospel of Jesus has caused you to reconsider?
6. Can you think of something in your life that your decision to follow Jesus has "cost" you? If so, share about it with the group. If not, why do you think that has been your experience?
7. In verse 8, Luke tells us that there was great joy in the city even as Christians were being persecuted for their faith. Reflect with this group: What is it about following Jesus that joy can be a reality even in the midst of difficult times? (The verse Pastor Silverio used to reflect on this was Matt. 13:44.)

Next Steps 2023

- What are some of your next steps in faith for 2023? Share any updates with your group.
- When you complete your next step using the campus QR code below.

Prayer

- Share praises and prayer requests with one another.
- Guided prayer: God, help me to follow and serve you with all of my life. If I still hold any convictions that do not honor you, help me to surrender them to you. Use this sermon series to grow me as I learn how to know you more. My desire is to trust you with my whole life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

