

DISCUSS

- Think of a time in your life when something happened that initially seemed bad but in the end actually turned good, or something good came from. Share.
- There is a lot of negative, but share one thing positive that has come from this 'time of COVID' for you?
- More importantly, has there been a positive spiritual aspect to COVID for you personally? In what way?
- The book of Acts reports (ch.8) that due to persecution the Church 'finally' moved beyond Jerusalem. Do you think the Church would have done so had there not been persecution? Why or why not? Explain your thoughts.
- Philip is introduced in Acts 6:5. He was selected to serve as a 'deacon' - to give oversight to a practical need. He was not an apostle but more of an 'every day' believer. How much do you think the mission of the church today relies upon 'leaders' as opposed to 'every day' believers?

APPLY

- There is likely at least one aspect of the Early Church's devotion from Acts 2:42 that all of us need to re-commit ourselves to. What is yours? What is a possible next step?
- Consider one way the pandemic has helped push you closer to God or His call? Name and share it.

PRAY

- Together, consider the year ahead as though it is a 'blank cheque' you are signing over to God for his purposes. Together, pray for God's will to be done in 2022.
- Ask God for endurance and strength for a fruitful walk with God in this time of COVID.
- Pray for God's people at Wellspring to be devoted to Him.

Devoted

CHURCH REIMAGINED

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Week 1: Living Acts 2 in an Acts 8 World

Key Text: Acts 2:42-47, 8:1-8

OPEN

In Acts 2, with the coming of the Holy Spirit the early Church ignited with explosive signs and wonders pointing to the reality of Jesus, which translated into a growing community devoted to new life in Christ and sharing the good news of Jesus with others. Their devotion to Christ led to close fellowship and sharing with one another to meet people's needs where "the Lord added to their number daily" (2:47). But then suddenly, their Acts 2 world was turned upside down by persecution in Acts 8, "where all except the apostles were scattered" (8:1). God used persecution to push the Church to where God wanted the Gospel to go. The Early Church was forced to reimagine what it looked like to be devoted in a time of being scattered. In this time of COVID, we need to do the same.

REFLECT

- In the 'ideal' of Acts 2:42, what are the four things the early believers devoted themselves to? Define each.
- Acts 2 was a season characterized by close & easy fellowship. In vv. 42-47, list the various expressions of fellowship and close relationship the Early Church enjoyed.
- In Acts 8, circumstances radically change. Where did believers go? What things did 'every day' believers (as in not apostles), such as Philip, do and the results? (vv.4-8)