

CrossWalk **notes**

Embolden:

Bold to Adapt to God's Plan

July 19, 2020 / Phil Bischoff

⁴⁶ Every day they continued to **meet together in the temple courts**. They broke bread **in their homes** and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and **enjoying the favor of all the people**. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47, NIV

¹ And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. **On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.** ² Godly men buried Stephen and **mourned deeply for him.** ³ But Saul **began to destroy the church**. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. Acts 8:1-3, NIV

In an _____ our plans can be painfully _____.

When our plans are destroyed, are _____ destroyed?

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority."⁸ But you will receive power when the **Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**" Acts 1:7-8, NIV

⁴ Those who had been scattered **preached the word wherever they went.** ⁵ Philip went down to a **city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there.** Acts 8:4-5, NIV

Jesus' followers didn't know God's _____, but did know their _____ and source of _____. This emboldened them to adapt their plans and be: _____.

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20, NIV

God's plan for my life is that I become a _____ of _____ who helps _____ more followers.

⁵ Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. ⁶ When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. ⁷ For with shrieks, **impure spirits** came out of many, and many who were **paralyzed or lame were healed.** ⁸ So there was great joy in that city. Acts 8:5-8, NIV

No matter my circumstances, the gospel can radically _____ and _____ me. Using the gospel, I can live in and help make _____ even in a sinful and painful world.

³ But Saul began to destroy the church... Acts 8:3a

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will **build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.** Matthew 16:16,18, NLT

No matter the world's circumstances, Jesus will always be in _____, building his _____ and nothing will _____ it!

MEMORY VERSE

...upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. Matthew 16:18b, NLT

My next step: Jesus is Savior and King! I'll adapt to his plans for my life. No matter the circumstance, I will live in a "city of joy."

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.

Impact Group Questions

Embolden – Bold to Adapt to God’s Plan

Getting Started: What has been the hardest thing for you to adapt to during this current situation?

Going Back to Sunday

Each week we will start with the question, “What about the message from Sunday had the most meaning or made the biggest impact on you? Another question is “How did this message help me appreciate Jesus at the Hero of my life?”

Bold to Adapt to God’s Plan

Why is it so important to know (and perhaps to expect) that our plans in life might be destroyed in an instant?

Read: Acts 2:46-47 & Acts 8:1-3

Clearly, it is a great blessing to physically meet together at church and in homes. Those plans have been disrupted right now for us.

However, since CrossWalk’s beginning, that wasn’t disrupted **at all** until now. For many of us this is the first time **in our lives** this has been disrupted! For many Christians in the past (and some today because of continuing persecution) meeting together physically in large groups was/is disrupted more often.

Let’s pause right now and say a prayer of thanks to God for allowing us to have had the blessing of a large physical worship gathering and meeting in homes for so long undisrupted in our country. God is good!

Read Acts 1:6-8 & Acts 8:4-5

Explain how those scattered adapted their plans based on Jesus’ plan/mission for them and based on the Holy Spirit’s power. How were they **fast, fluid, and flexible**?

Fast. Fluid. Flexible.

What is God’s plan for your life and for the Church? (See Matthew 28:18-20 and the 3rd fill-in on the notes)

Confession time. Instead of following that plan, what are ways you tend to get off track and follow your own plan?

When our plans are destroyed, it’s a good time to reflect and see if our plans were in line with God’s plan for us. Since you know what God’s plan truly is for your life, how can you be fast, fluid, and flexible in the current situation?

Read Acts 8:5-8

No matter my circumstances, the gospel can radically heal and change me. And using the gospel, I can adapt and help make “cities of joy” even in a sinful and painful world.

What about this above is most comforting and encouraging to you?

Read Matthew 16:18

The “rock” Jesus is talking about is the message Peter confessed: That Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. How is it that this “rock” ensures that his Church (believers in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit) will never be conquered?

Doing Life Together:

Right now we are forced to adapt and figure out how we can do life together as a group. What’s 1 or 2 things our group will do together before the end of the summer? (Check out the church center app for service opportunities. Consider how we can safely have physical interaction. What are the needs of our group members? Are we communicating our needs to each other?)

Prayer: Take about 10 minutes to pray together, allowing each person the opportunity to pray if they feel comfortable.