

## Key Players in the Book of Acts

3/18/18

The church in the book of Acts grew because of some key players. We will look at 4 of the early converts to Christianity

### I. We Meet Saul

A. Acts 8:1 Saul was one of the witnesses to Stephen's martyrdom.

B. Acts 8:2-3 Great persecution broke out against the church.

1. Saul was the leader of that persecution

2. He had authority to send anyone to prison who proclaimed to a follower of "The Way" (what early Christians called their movement)

C. The believers were scattered

1. Not the apostles, they stayed in Jerusalem

2. These scattered believers shared the message of the Gospel

### II. Early Converts

A. Phillip Acts 8:4-5

1. Began as a deacon and now we see him working miracles and preaching in Samaria

B. Simon the Sorcerer – A convert to Christianity but his loyalty or the motives of his heart were suspect.

C. Ethiopian Eunuch

1. High ranking official (treasurer) for Candace, Queen of Ethiopia

2. Must have heard the Old Testament accounts of God because he went to Jerusalem to worship and he was reading the book of Isaiah.

3. Phillip shared the Gospel of Jesus and he was immediately baptized.

D. Saul

1. Converted by Jesus himself! Acts 9:5

2. He immediately began to preach in the synagogue that Jesus was the Messiah.

III. What is God saying?

A. God can use anyone – a common man, an influential man, an African and an educated man were all used by God

B. God wants to reach everyone – Medes, Africans, Persians, Greeks, etc.

C. God wants YOU to be the someone who goes to the ANYONE.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think such great persecution broke out against the church when people were getting healed, delivered and saved?

2. What was the result of this persecution? Describe a time in your life when God used persecution to create something good. What does this teach us about difficult times?

3. God used a commoner, a warlock, an African and a highly educated man. What does this speak to you?

4. Saul had a dramatic conversion experience. Share your conversion with your DNA group. Why do you think Jesus came to Saul/Paul personally?

5. Discuss this statement: They didn't have a ministry, they had a mission. What is the difference? Are you looking for a ministry opportunity or a mission field?

6. The mission of any church is to Reach the Lost, Make Them a Disciple and Repeat. How do you think LifeSpring is doing with this mission? What can be done to better accomplish our mission?