



## Adult Life Groups & Care Groups

Shively Baptist Church | Louisville, KY

### Care Group Leaders Handout For Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

#### Planned Schedule:

- 0900-0910 – Meet & Greet in Life Groups
- 0910-0915 – Focus (TBD)
- 0915-0930 – Teaching Time (Life Group Leaders)
- 0930-1015 – Care Group Time (Care Group Leaders)



### God's Church on the Move "Adversity and Growth – Part 1"

Acts 8:1b-4

*On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.*

1. Consider Matthew 28:18-20 –
  - a. ***"Some consider Matthew 28:18-20 to be a command given to the Apostles only. Do you consider this command to apply to us/you, or just to the original Apostles? Why/Why not?"***
  - b. ***"If the command applies to us/you today – can you objectively list what you are doing to make disciples in obedience to His command?"***
2. Consider Acts 1:8 – *Jesus promises that His apostles will be witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, etc.*
  - a. ***"Is there any indication in Acts 1-7 that the apostles were organizing to fulfill this promise?" (Missions teams, strategy sessions, etc?)***
  - b. ***"Why do you think this was the case"*** – immediate needs, Jewish context, plenty here to do
3. In Acts 8:1b-4 we see Acts 1:8 being fulfilled, but not in an expected way – through persecution.
  - a. We need to acknowledge that virtually none of us experience persecution, or even opposition, in the same way the early Christians did.
  - b. ***"When you face opposition or persecution, do you tend to consider God as being absent, or do you recognize God as being the author of your situation?"*** - Consider how the "scattered" images God as a farmer, planting seeds to produce a crop/outcome.
  - c. ***"How can seeing God as author change your perspective on your situation?"*** – Consider how the word translated "preached" showed the early Christians actively "good news-ing" as they fled before the persecution