



## At Home Devotion Guide

We encourage everyone to use this guide in your home this week and to adapt it to your specific household situation. This guide can be used in one sitting or can be broken up and used throughout the week.

### Sermon Reflection

**Read passage from sermon:** Acts 8:1b-8

**For young children:** The Christians in Jerusalem were persecuted and had to leave the city, but God still had a plan. We can trust Him to work good, even when things get hard. God used this bad situation to take the gospel to people who had never heard.

**For older children and adults:** The stoning of Stephen, described in chapter 7, insights persecution on a large scale. Because of this persecution, Christians flee to other places. Ironically, their flight from Jerusalem fulfills God's plan. The persecution intended to stop the gospel, causes the gospel to spread. We can trust that God will work good and allow His church to proclaim the gospel, even in the most difficult circumstances.

**Question:** How have you seen God take a bad situation and use it for good?

**Pray:** Ask God to help you trust that His hand is at work even in the most difficult situations.

### Weekly Catechism Questions

**For Children:** Where do you learn how to love and obey God? *In the Bible alone.*

(Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 119:104-105; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 4:12).

**For older children and Adults:** Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly? *Since the fall, no mere human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly, but consistently breaks it in thought, word, and deed.*

(*The New City Catechism: Q13,*  
[http://www.newcitycatechism.com/New\\_City\\_Catechism.pdf](http://www.newcitycatechism.com/New_City_Catechism.pdf))

**Suggested Hymn:** #232, *The Power of the Cross*

## How to Use This Guide

At Bethany, we recognize that worship is not just something that happens on Sunday morning. Though corporate worship is important, it is also important that we are striving to worship God in our homes on a regular basis. According to Donald Whitney, "God deserves to be worshiped daily in our homes by our families." This guide will help you to lead worship in your home.

**Scripture-** Begin by reading the passage from the sermon. Based on the ages of those involved, briefly discuss the meaning of the passage and how it applies to your lives.

**Catechism-** This is a great way to learn what the whole Bible teaches about a particular topic. Read the question, then read the answer. If possible, try to put the answer in your own words.

**Prayer-** Pray that God would help you obey and understand the truth that you just discussed.

**Sing-** If someone is able to lead in song, then take some time to sing to the Lord. The guide will provide a suggested hymn from *The Baptist Hymnal, 2008.*

Feel free to adapt this guide to your particular household situation. This is not meant to be a heavy burden. It is an aid in helping members of your household to grow in Christ.

**Families with young children-** Don't feel like your devotions have to be long and tedious. Start with short amounts of time, then get longer as the children get older.

**Families with older children-** Also, don't feel like your devotions have to be long and tedious. Avoid 'preaching' to your family. Instead, let the word of God speak for itself.

**Couples without children-** This guide is for you as well! Household devotions will help you go deeper in your study of God's word and grow together in Christ.

**Singles who live alone-** Utilize this guide as part of your regular devotion time.

Begin today! This discipline will help you and other members of your household grow in their walk with Christ. It will also aid you in passing on the faith to the next generation.