

INTRO

- Imagine a non-christian asked you why christians evangelize—what would you say?

In this season 2 of our Acts series Unstoppable, we witness the *continuation* of the life and mission of Jesus, only now through His Spirit and His Church.

READ

- Acts 8:4-25

REFLECT & RESPOND

The church scattered becomes the church on mission; God uses disruption to mobilize the *entire* church, not just a handful. And the result is the movement of the gospel to new places and people.

Qu: what is something that stood out to you from the passage? And why?

There is much to unpack from this text on the nature of the gospel's mission, message and impact: we see ordinary people (like Philip) proclaiming the good news of Jesus and the Kingdom of God in word and deed, contextualized to the Samaritan people (despised by Jews & non-Jews alike). We also see the wonderful impact of the gospel through baptisms, healing, deliverance, ethnic reconciliation and unity. Amidst all this, we see that the gospel advances rather messily—mission is rarely tidy and neat!

What is inescapable from this passage is the simple act of evangelism that links this entire text (v4,12,25), which is the catalyst for all this gospel transformation.

REFRAMING EVANGELISM

Personal evangelism seems to have fallen on hard times amongst Christians for various reasons (e.g. fear & apathy are common culprits)

Qu: what is your immediate reaction on hearing the word evangelism? Why?

For others, evangelism comes with baggage from techniques that seem outdated today. Whatever the case, the reality is *everyone* evangelizes, they just don't call it that. Everyone has some hope or good news they willingly share with others (political party, lifestyle change, advice or experience, etc).

It may be helpful for us to reframe evangelism if that proves a stumbling block for you. One way is to think of it as simply sharing your life in a way that is relationally integrated with others and integrated with the gospel. We could break this down as:

relational connection (rc) + gospel conviction (gc) + casual conversation (cc)

- **RC:** Am I relationally integrated with the people and place God has me in right now? Am I in touch with their hopes, fears and struggles?
- **GC:** Is the gospel good news to me? Is it challenging and changing my hopes, fears and struggles?
- **CC:** ask questions, listen and connect to the gospel in a way that is sincere and relevant. Does my faith leak out in good ways in conversation?

Qu: out of the 3, which one do you find most challenging at the moment? Why?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for courage, compassion and conversations as we seek to be more missional in our daily lives.
- Pray for one another to practice a life of up-in-out in the week ahead.