

Spirit-Filled and Adapting to God's Plan

Parents: It's hard to keep a thankful heart when our plans unravel. Haven't we, along with our kids, experienced that a lot lately? Today we hear about a time when the people in the early Christian church faced persecution while serving God. However, in the midst of it all there was great joy as the gospel was spread and people were healed.

Read: *Acts 8: 1b-8 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. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.*

Discuss: Do you remember when your plans changed? How did it make you feel? *Lately, many things have been cancelled. It can be very disappointing.* Do you think it helps us be adaptable and resilient, or ready to bounce back from difficulties quickly? Yes.

Looking at the verses above, in what city did the persecution, or bad treatment, of the early Christians take place? *Jerusalem.* Who was trying to destroy the church? *A man named Saul.*

Where did Philip go? *He went to Samaria.* What did he do there? *Philip proclaimed the Messiah which means he told people about Jesus. By the power of the Holy Spirit he also performed miracles.*

Do you think Philip knew beforehand what God had in store for him? *We don't know, but in the Bible it tells us that even in the tough times Philip glorified God by his words and actions. And do you know what? It brought about great joy in the city! What a great reminder that God's plans are the ones we want to follow. We can even praise and thank Him all the way through!*

Key Point:

We Praise You God	(Hands up in praise)
For Your Great Plans	(Hands out in front)

Family Activity: Let's write down reasons to be thankful for each day this week. You can add Bible verses, too. We'll call it our "Hallelujah Gratitude Journal". Print the template below to get started.

Prayer: Thank you God for your great plans that are so much better than ours. When it seems like life is tough, help us to look to You with thankful and trusting hearts. We thank You and we love You. Amen.

Next Steps: Memorize Proverbs 19:21 "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

Hallelujah Gratitude Journal



I AM THANKFUL FOR... DATE:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

I AM THANKFUL FOR... DATE:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

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- 1. _____
- 2. _____
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I AM THANKFUL FOR... DATE:

- 1. _____
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I AM THANKFUL FOR... DATE:

- 1. _____
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