

Acts 8:4: "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word."

## THE FIRST MISSIONARIES

**Key Thought:** The early Christians witnessed everywhere they went.

Display pictures of six or eight church buildings. Discuss the details and settings of each building. Which church would you want to attend? What is a church? (a group of saved, baptized believers agreeing to carry the gospel to everyone they can) These are pictures of church buildings, not churches. The buildings only hold the people who make up the churches. A church is really the people.

People have not always met for church in buildings such as we see here. The first church after Jesus returned to Heaven met in a house. As the word about Jesus' resurrection and power to save spread, more people started coming to the home meetings. How do you think others learned of the church meetings? Every student became a missionary. They invited friends and family students to hear about Jesus. Missionaries carry the gospel to others.

However, not everyone thought people should meet for worship and be a missionary. One of these people was Saul. He was an enemy of Jesus and those who worshiped Him as God's Son. Read Acts 8:4. As Christians were arrested and suffered troubles, they scattered everywhere trying to escape. What does the Bible say they did as they scattered? (If no one can answer, read the verse again.) This was a scary time for Christians, but they kept telling everyone they met about Jesus. They became missionaries. How did this help the church grow? (As they scattered, more people heard about Jesus.)

We will probably not have someone break into our Bible Challenge class to arrest us. However, we will all go to different houses and schools as we leave. As we scatter, we should tell everyone how Jesus died on the cross for sin and is coming again someday. We can be missionaries like the early Christians. This makes Jesus happy.