



Big Church: Fear sees crisis, faith sees opportunity

Date: Sunday 23rd May

Speaker: Steve Gee

Key Verses: Acts 8

Talk Summary:

Context:

- The church has been born through the resurrection and Pentecost. Acts 1:8 – Spirit will propel them in mission to the ends of the earth.
- Church had favor with the community Act 5:12
- This changes and they face persecution Acts 7

Acts Chapter 8:

- 8:4 – Persecution leads to scattering. We see Philip spreading the gospel. In the middle of crisis God reveals opportunity and begins to fulfill his promise to send them in mission.
- Disruption enters the system – this has been something of our experience. Our norm has been disrupted.
- *Fear sees crisis and faith sees opportunity:* Disruption can cause us to feel overwhelmed and retreat.
- The other response is to make a choice to look (like Philip) to embrace the opportunities disruption provides (8:5).
- We have had an unexpected opportunity to reset as a culture. People are reconsidering their whole lives and this is a huge opportunity for the gospel.
- What kingdom opportunities has our current disruption opened up to you and this church?
- God's invitation is that as we step into the opportunities God has for us, he has growth and multiplication for us as a church.
- We are called to be a people of mission and multiplication; this is a moment to embrace the more God has for us.

- “I think God is saying, Birmingham Vineyard this is a time to go again. It’s time to see things multiplied again on every level.”

Worship

Alternately, worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship. (More small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don’t spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

1. What did you think of the talk on Sunday, was there anything that stood out to you, or challenged you?
2. Where have you seen, or do you see opportunities for the gospel as a result of our current season of disruption in your own life and the lives of your friends (especially those who don’t know Jesus yet)?
3. Steve said: “I think God is saying, Birmingham Vineyard this is a time to go again. It’s time to see things multiplied again on every level.” – How does this statement make you feel, why?
4. Spend some time as a group praying for the church and this next season as things open up. *If you have an encouragement or a prophetic sense, we would love to hear it email: info@birminghamvineyard.com*

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don’t know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invite to?