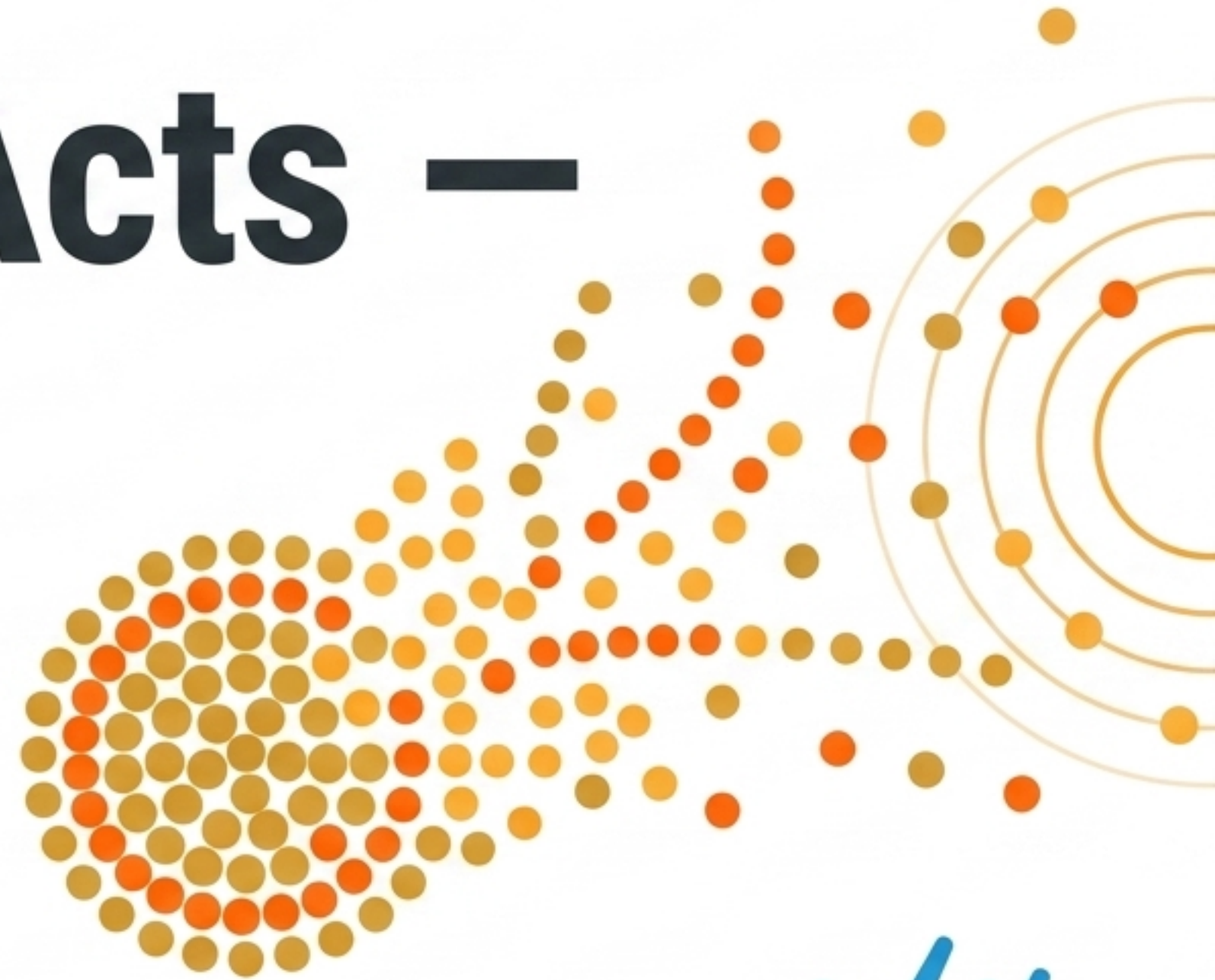


**FIRE AND GO**

# The Book of Acts — Chapters 5–8

**Purity, Pressure, and  
the Scattered Church**



# The Crucible of Expansion

Acts 5–8 reveals how the early Church navigated three critical transitions to advance the mission:



**God uses both the purity of the Church and the pressure of persecution to fulfill His global mission.**



## The Demand for a Holy Church

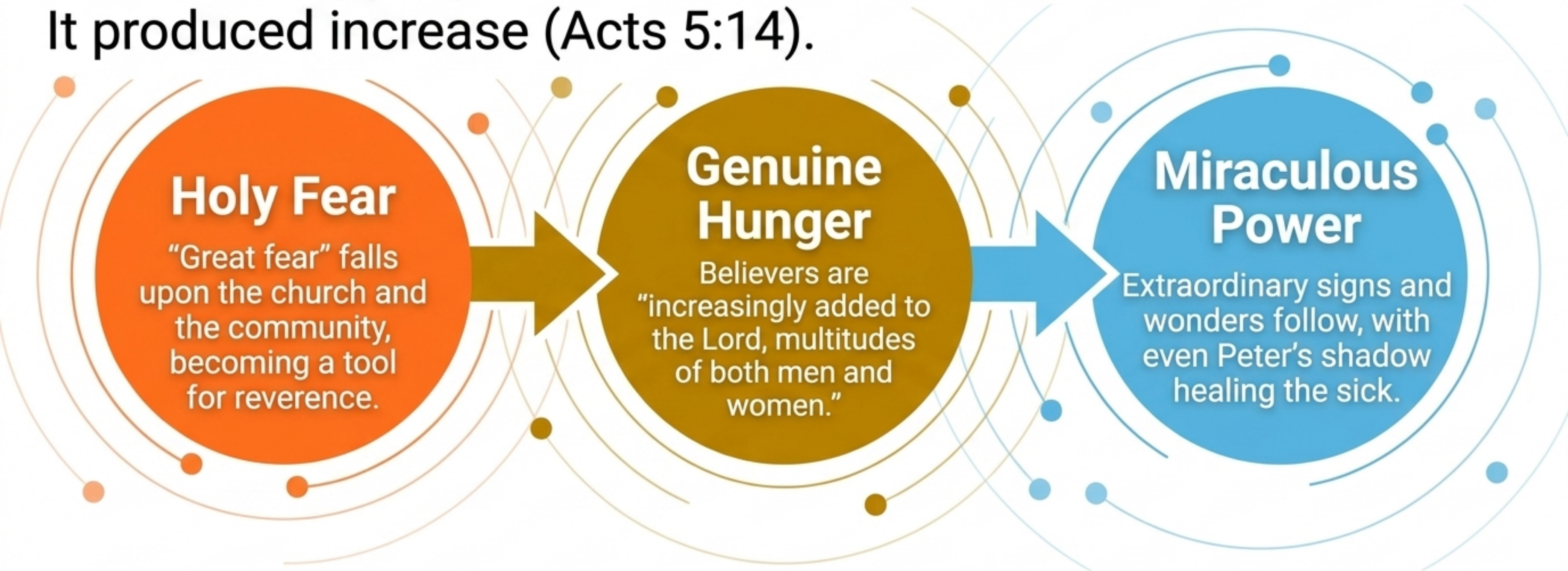
In Acts 5:1-11, Ananias and Sapphira attempt to deceive the Holy Spirit by lying about the price of their land.

**Core Principle:** The Church that carries the gospel to the nations must be a **holy church**.

**Key Insight:** Deceiving the Holy Spirit brings sudden, divine **judgment**. **God's holiness does not hinder missions; it guards the true power of the Church.**

# Purity Produces Power

The sobering judgment in Acts 5 did not cause decline. It produced increase (Acts 5:14).



**A Pentecostal church that maintains strict holiness and the Spirit's fullness will turn communities upside down.**

Multiplying Leadership to Sustain Growth

**In Acts 6, rapid growth creates administrative strain.** Hellenistic widows are overlooked in the daily food distribution.





# Stephen: Faith, Power, and Martyrdom

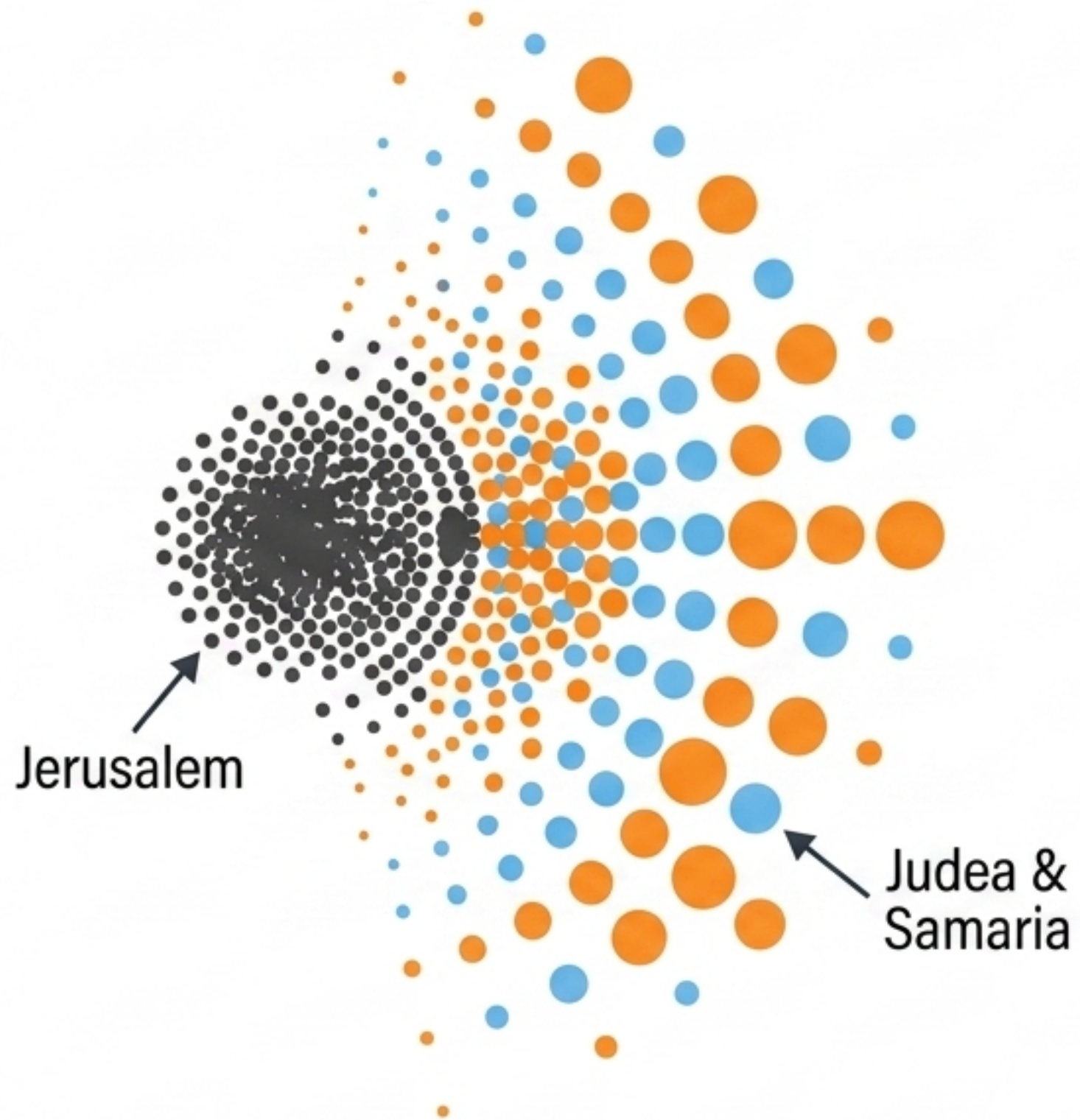
A newly appointed deacon who did “great wonders and signs among the people” (Acts 6:8).

- Delivered the longest, most sweeping historical speech in the Book of Acts.
- Became the early Church’s first martyr, stoned for his bold witness.
- Echoed Jesus by forgiving his killers with his dying breath.

**The Missionary Seed: Stephen’s dying prayer—“Lord, do not charge them with this sin”—became the spiritual seed for the conversion of Saul of Tarsus.**

# The Scattered Seed

*“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.” – Acts 8:4*



- Stephen's death triggered massive, devastating persecution.
- What looked like a human tragedy was actually God's sovereign mechanism to fulfill Acts 1:8.
- The New Paradigm: Missions was no longer just for the Apostles. Ordinary, displaced believers became everyday missionaries.

# Philip's Mission: Two Models of Evangelism



## The City of Samaria

- **Method:** Mass Power Evangelism
- **Action:** Preaching Christ + Deliverance from unclean spirits + Healing the paralyzed.
- **Result:** "Great joy in that city."



## The Desert Road

- **Method:** Spirit-Directed, Cross-Cultural Witness
- **Action:** Directed by the Spirit to one Ethiopian official reading Isaiah.
- **Result:** One individual saved and baptized.

**One Spirit-directed encounter planted the seed of the gospel into an entire African nation.**

# **Pentecostal Application: The African Inheritance**

**Point 1: Pressure Produces Expansion. The Holy Spirit uses pressure to scatter the seed. He does not allow persecution to stop His mission; He uses it to multiply it.**

**Point 2: Your Spiritual Heritage. Africa received an early seed of the gospel through the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8.**

**Call to Action: African Pentecostals are not recipients of a 'foreign' gospel. You are heirs to one of the oldest missionary stories in the Bible. Carry it with authority.**

# Reflection Questions

**1** How did the early Church's strict holiness in Acts 5 contribute to its missionary growth rather than hindering it?

**2** What leadership multiplication principles from Acts 6 can you practically apply to your own growing church?

**3** If every member of your church acted like the scattered believers in Acts 8:4, what would change in your city?

**4** What can we learn from Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch about Spirit-directed, cross-cultural witnessing?





# Prayer Focus

- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God that He uses every circumstance—even intense opposition, pressure, and suffering—to advance the gospel and scatter the seed.

**Intercession:** Pray by name for believers in your nation and across the continent who are facing persecution today.

**Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to make every member of your congregation a bold, everyday witness for Christ, just like the believers in Acts 8.



# Action Step: Build an Acts 8:4 Culture

## The Task:

This week, challenge every member of your congregation to share their faith with at least one person in their everyday life (workplace, school, or neighborhood).

## Implementation:

- Teach them that missions is not just for pastors.
- Create a brief testimony-sharing exercise in your next Sunday service.
- Have ordinary members report back to the church on what God did through them.