

## Decrease

Acts 8:1-8

\_\_\_\_\_ lead to \_\_\_\_\_

*In order for this to happen, we must:*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_

## For Further Reflection and Discussion

*Opener: When you were little, what did you want to be "when you grew up"?*

How did God speak to you or work in you at church this Sunday?

Read Acts 8:1-8. What are some of the contrasts you notice between vv. 1-3 and vv. 4-8?

- In these verses, what examples of "decrease" do you see?
- What examples of "increase" do you see?

What do you imagine might have been some of the reasons the author included the mention of mourning Stephen in v. 2?

Mourning means to get "up and out" the pain we feel from losses in our lives.

- What has this looked like in your life?
- Why do some resist this?
- What happens if someone resists mourning their losses?

How might failing to mourn the losses in our lives prevent us from seeing increase and growth?

What did the people who were scattered because of the persecution do (v. 4)?

What message did Philip proclaim?

- What would it look or sound like to proclaim this same message in our context?

What attracted the people's attention so that they listened to Philip's message?

- How necessary do you think it is today for signs and miracles to accompany our proclamation of the gospel? Why?

How can we pray for one another?