

Unpack Your Bags

Central's plan for gathering over
the next year



Acts 7:54-8:8 (ESV)

September 13, 2020

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit". ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

8 And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all

scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶ And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much joy in that city.

Introduction:

1. We're not going back home anytime soon

Since we're not going home anytime soon, we must:

1. Plan and strategize accordingly.
2. Work within the limit of 50.
3. Work within the wide ranging views of our people.
4. Beware of a danger we all face.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
Acts 1:8

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship. . . . And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people." Acts 2:42, 46-47

Acts 8:1

2. Unpack Your Bags

Where did the church meet?

Acts 12:12	Mary's house
Acts 16:40	Lydia's house
Acts 20:20	"house to house"
Romans 16:5; 1 Cor 16:19	Prisca and Aquila's House
Colossians 4:15	Nympha's house
Philemon 1:2	Philemon's house

Option 1: Family Gathering

What is it? A gathering of your family at home to participate in the livestream worship service on Sundays.

Who is it for? Anyone who is not able to join with others.

Option 2: Home Gatherings

What are they? You and a small group of others who meet in someone's home on Sunday to worship and fellowship together through the livestream service.

Who are they for? Anyone who is able and comfortable to meet in a small group.

Option 3: Under 50 Gatherings

What are they? Services of under 50 people at Central Baptist's building.

Who are they for? Anyone who is able and comfortable meeting in a socially distanced larger gathering.

What You Need to Know

1. We will have two gathering spaces. Gathering 1 is in the Main Auditorium. Gathering 2 is in the Fellowship Hall.
2. You will need to pre-register at our website to attend.
3. You will receive an email later in the week letting you know which gathering space you have been randomly assigned to.
4. Arrive early to check in with the host at the door.
5. Maintain social distance.
6. Rejoice that we can meet and be patient with the fact that it is not ideal.

3. Trust God's plans for Covid Hotel

Acts 8:1

"The church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied."

Acts 9:31