

STUDY GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

LEAVING YOUR COMFORT ZONE | ACTS 6:8-7:60

WHEN TRAGEDY MOVED THE CHURCH FROM THEIR COMFORT ZONE

Note to Leaders: Every group is different, please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group from each section below.

WORK AHEAD | HOW CAN I COME PREPARED FOR MY GROUP?

1. Read Acts 6:8-8:2.
2. Look over your message notes. What was surprising or insightful? What questions were raised?
3. If time allows, look ahead at the "Digging In" section and think through how you would contribute to your group discussion.

FOR STARTERS | THOUGHTS TO GET US ON THE SAME PAGE

1. Is there any topic you could talk about for 10 minutes without any preparation?

DIGGING IN | DISCOVERING WHAT GOD SAYS IN SCRIPTURE

Grace, Power & Wisdom: Learning to Use the Holy Spirit's Tools

1. In Acts 6:8-10, we see the effects of Stephen's connection with the Holy Spirit. Where does this connection come from? (See John 15:26-27 & John 16:12-13).
2. How can we grow in our own connection and reliance on the Holy Spirit? (See 2 Timothy 3:14-17 & Matthew 18:19-20).
3. When it comes to being a joyful witness, what are some of the things we tend to do rather than share and live the Good News with grace, power and wisdom from the Spirit?
4. Where are there opportunities for you to grow in grace, power and wisdom?

Living for Your Eulogy Rather Than Your Resume

1. Read through Stephen's last moments in Acts 7:51–60. What do you notice? Does anything he says remind you of someone? (See Mark 14:53–63, 15:34–37 & Luke 23:34).
2. Talk about the importance of your last words. What do Stephen's last words say about his character and mission?
3. How do you think Stephen's vision of Jesus is connected to his ability to forgive his enemies? As you think about people who are difficult to forgive, how might you follow his example?
4. What would it look like to live for your eulogy rather than your resume?

BRINGING IT HOME | APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Personal Reflection

Where do you want God to equip you in order to become a more joyful witness, sharing and living the Good News?

Group Application

In the past 12 months, five thousand Christians have been killed for their witness to Jesus around the world. Pray for God's wisdom, comfort and strength for believers in places where there is strong antagonism toward the gospel.

DIGGING DEEPER | IDEAS TO KEEP GROWING DURING THE WEEK

1. Have you ever practiced sharing the gospel story? Check out this [easy and useful method](#) by our friends at InterVarsity.
2. The entire book of Acts takes about 2.5 hours to read. Challenge a friend to get all the way through it this week! Not much of a reader? Check out this [free audio version](#) from Bible Gateway.