

# Wednesday Night Discussion Guide

Week: for March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Scripture: Acts 6 and 7

Bottom Line: **Stephen stands firm in his faith and goes beyond his call**

A personal note from Jesse: Chapters 6 and 7 of Acts focus on the short, yet profound ministry of Stephen. Through the video and during discussion amongst your students I want them to take away the significance of the Holy Spirit in Stephen's life. From the moment we are introduced to him, up until his death we still the spirit directing him. From the false accusations, to the speech, right up until him getting stone you see a common thread of the spirit giving him power and peace.

Also, during discussion with your students, focus on why and how this scripture is important to us today. Why is dependence on the Holy Spirit important? Why is standing firm in your faith in Jesus important?

## **Pause 1 @ 1:53**

*Read Acts 6:1-7*

Stephen is Called

How did the disciples handle the conflict that was brought to them?

- Did not ignore the problem
- Did not delay
- Appointed the seven (trusted others to handle the problem)
- Devoted themselves to prayer and the word

What requirements were given in choosing the seven to serve?

- Good repute (good reputation)
- Full of The Spirit
- Full of wisdom

What was the result because the disciples appointed Stephen and the others to serve?

- The word of God continued to increase
- The number of the disciples multiplied greatly
- Many priests became obedient to the faith

## **Pause 2 @ 4:09**

*Read Acts 6:8-15*

Stephen fulfills and defends his call

Have you ever gotten blamed or accused for something that you didn't do? How did you react when/if this happened?

- Note: verse 10, "They could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking."

Have you ever been able to tell someone is filled with the Holy Spirit and following God by just looking at them? (v.15) "And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel"

- Here you could reference the fruits of the spirit. (Galatians 5: 22-23)

### **Pause 3 @ 8:49**

*Read Acts 7: 51-60*

Stephen goes beyond his call

Why is the presence of God not being confined to the temple walls important? Why is this good news for us today?

- The Holy Spirit lives in each one of us. We carry the presence the God with us every day.
- God can be with His people wherever His spirit is. This is profound for Christians that live in nations where Christian churches aren't allowed. People can still gather in His name, even if they aren't in a "church"

What does it mean when people say the gospel is offensive?

- The gospel is news that changes people's lives.
- The conviction of sin can be hard to swallow at times. No one wants to be told that they are broken and need of a savior. Except this fact that sounds harsh, is actually the most liberating truth we will ever understand.

### **Wrap-up Questions:**

Just like Stephen was called by the disciples to care for the widow's, how is God calling you to love your neighbor, classmate, parents, etc.

When was a time that you were told to do something, and actually went above and beyond what you were asked to do? What was that like? Were you recognized for your efforts?

- You can relate this to Jesus standing at the right hand of God