

The Book of Acts

Called to Minister

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SUNDAY 25 October 2026

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GETTING STARTED

By Acts 6 the church has grown from about 120 people (**Acts 1:15**) to 3,000 (**2:41**), then to 5,000 men (**4:4**), with more men and women added every day (**5:14**). Growth brings new challenges. The Greek-speaking widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food (**6:1**).

The apostles don't ignore the problem, and they don't try to carry it all themselves. They ask the community to choose seven men **"full of the Spirit and wisdom"** to serve, so the apostles can give their attention to **"prayer and the ministry of the word"** (**6:3–4**). The result? **"The word of God spread"** and the number of disciples increased rapidly (**6:7**).

- What happens in a church when a few people try to carry everything?

- Where have you seen growth come from people being raised up and released?

INTO THE WORD

Stephen was chosen to wait on tables, yet he is **"full of God's grace and power"** and does great wonders and signs (**Acts 6:8**). Serving didn't replace his call to minister. **It opened the door to it.** Opposition soon follows, just as Jesus warned. Stephen is accused of blasphemy against Moses and against God.

In **Acts 7**, Stephen retells Israel's story through Abraham, Joseph, Moses and the temple. He speaks the language of his listeners and shows that **since the beginning, God has been calling his people home**, and he was never confined to one building. Stephen ends by naming their resistance to the Spirit. They stone him, and he dies praying for them (**7:59–60**).

- Why do you think Stephen began with Abraham and Moses rather than starting with Jesus?

- How does Stephen's death echo Jesus' own death (**Luke 23:34, 46**)?

- Where could you get involved in serving God's mission?

GOING DEEPER

Stephen's death looks like defeat, yet those scattered by persecution took the gospel with them (**Acts 8:1–4**). Church tradition holds that most of the apostles also died for their faith. As the saying goes, **"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."**

Bob Ekblad writes that the Spirit moved Peter and John from being **"learner bystanders"** of Jesus' ministry to **"empowered agents"** who carry the gospel to the nations. Our service matters and opens doors, but **only the gospel saves.** We are called to move from waiters to ministers, and that only happens by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Are you more of a learner bystander or an empowered agent right now? What would help you take the next step?

- Who in your world needs to hear the gospel in their own "language"?

Pray
Lord Jesus, thank you for calling ordinary people into your extraordinary work. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and wisdom, as you filled Stephen. Make us faithful in serving and bold in speaking about you. When opposition comes, give us courage, and the grace to forgive. Help us to know your whole story and to tell it in a way people can hear. Amen.