

Looking for
helpful
resources as
you study
Acts?



Bible Project



Free Commentary



Free Crossway Study

LET'S CHECK IN:

1. Briefly share: over the last week, what's one way you've noticed God working in your life? Or in the lives of others? In your community? In the world? Or share something that happened in the last week you are grateful for!

LET'S GET STARTED:

2. Icebreaker: why do you think it is so easy to experience hurt in the church?

LET'S DIVE IN:

3. First, read together Acts 6. Think back to the sermon. Was there an idea or aspect of the text spoke to you? Was there anything said that challenged, intrigued or confused you that you want to explore more? Listen to each other, but don't feel the need to answer a person's question.
4. The first half (6:1-7) deals with conflict. What are some difference between the Hellenists (Greek speaking Jews) and the Hebraic Jews (Hebrew speaking) that is causing complaining? While these two groups were present in the early church, they aren't groups that cause division in the Church today. What then are similar issues that can divide Christians today? What differences cause friction between believers? How can conflict drain energy, time, resources, and distract believers from the mission?
5. What stands out or encourages you when you consider how the apostles handled the potential divisive situation? Share if you've experienced a similar situation when a leader intervened and brought resolution to a church related issue. What principles of conflict resolution can we extract from this account?

6. The second half (6:8-15) deals with controversy. Luke emphasizes Stephen as a person “full of the Spirit.” This shows how Luke describes the Spirit’s ministry within a person to exemplify a stable and steady character of a “good reputation.” Before Luke explains the long controversy with the leaders (6:9-7:53) he wants the reader to know about Stephen’s character (6:3,8). Why do you think character is important when it comes to a public witness? Think about potentially facing some sort of controversy or criticism from non-believers. In these times, why does character matter?

7. Miraculous signs obviously are a clear demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit, but how can wisdom” also demonstrate the Spirit’s power? How can one’s wisdom work alongside our witness? What does it look like? (Read some helpful verses on wisdom: Proverbs 14:8, 15:21, 33, James 1:5, Colossians 4:5, Ephesians 1:15-19).

8. In the face of false accusations, it’s very easy to get angered, frustrated, or defensive. Sometimes, we may get disoriented regarding the position, statement, or truth we are trying to establish with someone. Stephen experienced false claims (6:13). In chapter 7, we’ll hear his sermon, but at this point, we notice he’s not willing to back down or stay silent in the face of controversy. How can this embolden you in your life? Consider potential cultural issues that are very sensitive. How can you find the balance between speaking the truth with grace and sensitivity as opposed to staying silent?

LET’S TAKE A NEXT STEP:

9. In light of this study, share and write down one next action step you feel God is leading you to take in the next week?

(Consider areas: a temptation to avoid? Promise to claim? Example to follow? Command to obey? Person to move toward? A new discipline to develop that will help you love God with your heart, soul, mind, strength and to love others?)