



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

How God Turned a Band of Nobodies into a Movement for Everybody

How did a handful of ordinary people become ten thousand followers of Jesus in the year following his public execution? How did his movement gain so much momentum, especially as ten of the eleven charter members were crucified, burned, or stoned to death? How did ten thousand Christians become one million by the second century, and 3.3 billion today? Written in the middle of the first century, The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of how Christianity spread like wildfire across the Roman Empire and beyond. For 25 weeks we will journey through Acts in pursuit of the truth behind history's most consequential movement.

Discussion Guide: Week 11

Acts 6:1-8:1

Opening Question

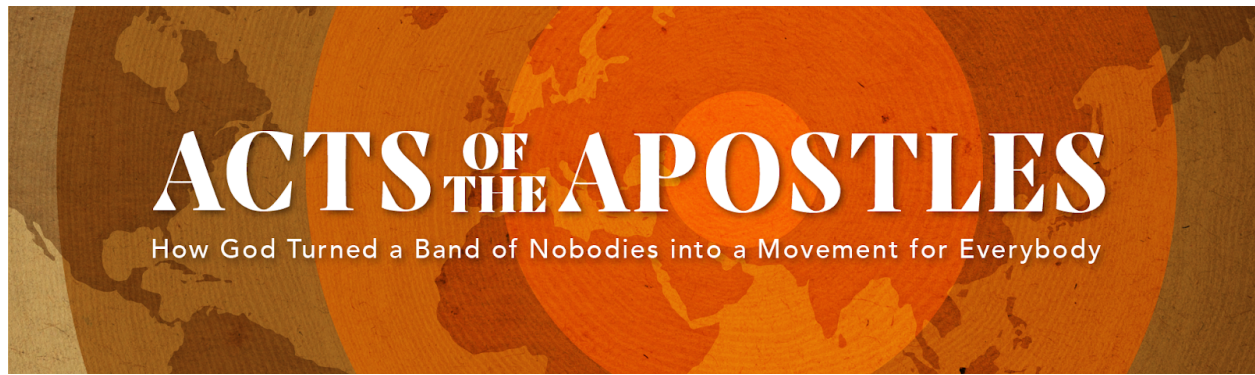
What is the boldest decision you have ever made? It could be a faith decision or a situation from your career or family. Why did you choose to make it?

Acts 6

What issue was Stephen initially selected to address? Why do you think this was becoming a problem in the early church?

Have you ever received a role at Church or work that you felt was beneath you? How did that make you feel, and how did you respond?

What was Stephen charged with? How does his trial echo Jesus'?



Acts 7:1-50

Why does Stephen go through Israel's history and why does he specifically highlight Abraham, Joseph, and Moses?

How does Stephen specifically respond to the accusations of speaking against the law and temple?

Acts 7:51-8:1

Why does the accusation of being stiff-necked and uncircumcised rile up the Jews?

What is the significance of Jesus standing to greet Stephen?

Reflection Questions

Stephen's boldness and power doesn't come from himself, but instead the Holy Spirit. Have you ever experienced boldness or power from the Spirit? If not, what do you think is holding you back?

The Jews were stiff-necked because they refused to change their minds about the Temple and the law. In what ways is the modern church being stiff-necked or holding our hands over our eyes so we cannot hear the truth?