



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Wk 16: The Seed Of The Church

SERIES OVERVIEW

The book of Acts tells the story of the gospel advancing from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. As we walk through this missional narrative together, our prayer is that God would breathe fresh wind into our sails—motivating and inspiring us to join Him in the work He's still doing today.

[Book of Acts Video Overview](#)

CONTEXT

In Acts 6:8-8:3, Stephen, full of grace and power, performs great wonders and signs among the people, but he is falsely accused of blasphemy & brought before the Sanhedrin. Despite his powerful defense, Stephen is stoned to death making him the 1st Christian martyr & his death sparks severe persecution against the church, leading to a scattering of believers throughout Judea and Samaria.

THE BIG IDEA

The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. God advances his mission through the faithful witness and sacrifice of his people.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 6:8-8:3

Use your Bible, Crosspoint App or a Bible App for the scripture.

ICE BREAKER

Would You Rather...

1. Eat unlimited watermelon or unlimited ice cream all summer?
2. Work as a camp counselor or lifeguard?

GROUP DISCUSSION

(Refer to **Week 16** of your ACTS Journal.)

Read Acts 6:8-10. Last week we saw Serving and Speaking gifts point people to Jesus. Stephen is using Sign Gifts (3rd type of spiritual gifts) in this passage.

- What are some examples of Sign Gifts?
- What do all 3 types of gifts have in common and how do Sign Gifts differ from the others?
- What gifts are most abused and which ones are overlooked in our world today?

In verses 7:50-53, Stephen speaks the truth to his opponents. What made it extremely difficult for Stephen to say these words with strength and love? What keeps you from speaking truth to those who oppose you?

What's the significance of Stephen's vision of the Trinity in verses 7:55-56 especially to his accusers and eventual murderers?

Read Acts 7:59-60. Compare Stephen's last words and Jesus' last words on the cross.

Share an example of when you struggled to pray for someone that was against you. How did praying for them, not against them, change you and the situation?

Read Acts 8:1-3. The death of Stephen and persecution led believers to scatter (same Greek word as "seed"). What's the significance of being scattered like seeds and what were the results for the early church?

THE BOOK OF ACTS

A CROSSPOINT CITY
SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Discussion continued: Paul (Saul at this time) was leading the charge in persecuting the church but Stephen's willingness to die for the cause of Christ seems to be a turning point for Paul. What good did God bring through the stoning of Stephen concerning Paul's life and the growth of The Church?

Read this quote as a group and discuss the true meaning and challenge of Spurgeon's words for us as the Church.

"Never did the church so much prosper and so truly thrive as when she was baptized in the blood. The ship of the church never sails so gloriously along as when the bloody spray of her martyrs falls on her deck. We must suffer and we must die, if we are ever to conquer this world for Christ". - Charles Spurgeon

How do Stephen's actions and words reflect the character of Jesus?

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests. Thank God for the men and women who have gone before us who were persecuted for the sake of Jesus and His church.

Get signed up today!



June 19-20

INFO & REGISTRATION

Available Dates:

Aug. 28/29 | Sept. 11/12 | Oct. 23/24

Nov. 6/7



Info & Registration [HERE](#)