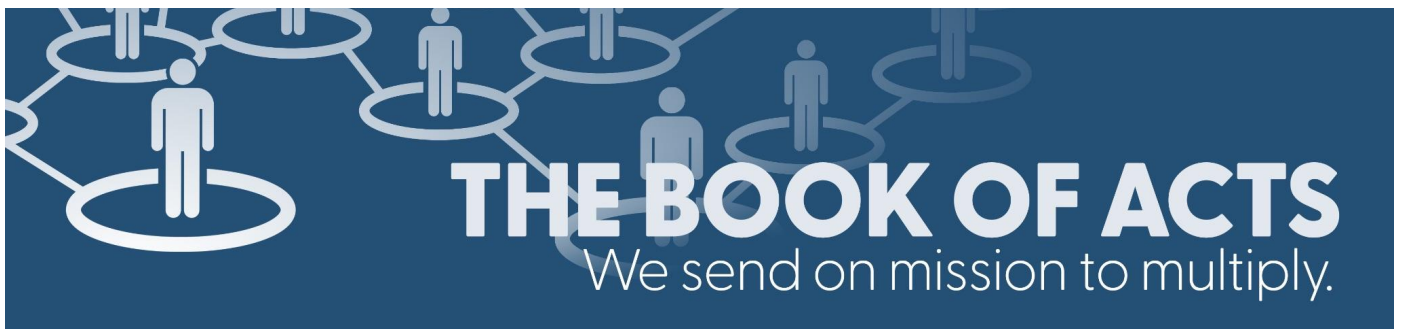




5.31.2026

Life Group Questions to consider:

1. Stephen responded to hatred and opposition by fixing his eyes on Jesus instead of defending himself or retaliating. Read Acts 7:54-60. What stands out most to you about Stephen's response in this moment? Why do you think his focus on Christ changed the way he responded to suffering? What usually shapes your response when you experience conflict, criticism, or pressure?
2. Even as persecution scattered the early church, God continued to use ordinary believers to spread the gospel. Read Acts 8:1-4 and James 1:2-4. How can God use hardship or disruption to strengthen faith and spiritual maturity? Have you experienced a season where God brought unexpected growth through difficulty? What makes it difficult to trust God when life feels unstable or painful?
3. Stephen reflected the heart of Jesus by praying for the people who were hurting him. Read Luke 23:34 and Acts 7:59-60. What similarities do you notice between the words of Jesus and the words of Stephen? Why is forgiveness often one of the hardest responses to suffering? Is there a relationship or situation where God may be calling you to respond more like Christ?
4. Stephen's life reminds us that following Jesus is worth more than comfort, safety, or approval. Read Philippians 1:20-21 and Acts 7:55-56. What do you think Paul meant when he said, "For to me, to live is Christ"? What competes for first place in our hearts and priorities? What does living fully for Jesus look like in everyday life?
5. Stephen's story reminds us that suffering is real, but our hope in Christ is greater than our present circumstances. Read Romans 8:18 and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. How do these passages help shape a biblical view of suffering? Why is an eternal perspective important during difficult seasons? How can believers encourage one another to remain hopeful and faithful through hardship?