

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week December 15, 2013

This Week's Focus: The Church continues to grow in the midst of inner dissension and external persecution.

This Week's Text: Acts 6

*What Jesus taught, then, was that the temple and the law would be superceded... that they would find their God-intended fulfilment in him... Jesus was the replacement of the temple and the fulfillment of the law." **John Stott***

*So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. **John 2:18-22***

Related Texts: 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17; Titus 1:5, 1:7; 1 Peter 5:1-2; Philippians 1:1

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- Discuss the complaint that was brought to the attention of the Apostles.
 - What could have caused this problem to surface?
 - What are some of the obstacles our community faces in trying to meet the needs of others?
 - In what way does meeting the needs of others exemplify Jesus?
- What are the Apostles concerned about? Why?
- How easy it to get distracted doing good while neglecting the vital?
- What do verses 1-6 teach us about the marks of a healthy church?

- Discuss the different characteristics required to be appointed as a caregiver for the widows.
 - Why are they important?
- What is the cause and effect of verses 6 and 7?
- How is Stephen described in verse 8? Does anything strike you about this description?
- What does this passage tell us about why Stephen's ministry was so effective?
- What are we told about his opponents?
- What charge is brought against Stephen?
- Summarize the message from Stephen's accusers. How does the gospel change the way we look at the temple and the law? Why is this a big deal?
- What do you think the similarities are between Moses's face shining after being in the presence of God and receiving the Law in Exodus 34:29 and Stephen's face radiantly shining in Acts 6:15?

Gospel Celebration:

- We have a new and better temple-Jesus.
- We have a new and better high priest-Jesus.
- We have a new and better sacrifice-Jesus.
- We have a new and better access to glory and fellowship with God-Jesus.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for opportunities to witness with grace and power to others concerning the person and work of Jesus.
- Pray for continued unity in the Church.
- Pray for boldness and clarity in demonstrating and declaring the gospel.

Next Week's Text: Acts 7