**ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

**Lesson 3: Scatter and Serve**

***Fear can silence Christians, but God calls us to boldly proclaim the gospel in every circumstance, no matter the outcome.***



**To know that hardship is a part of following Jesus and God does not abandon us in our difficult circumstances.**

***Heart Change***

**To feel confident in our calling to follow Jesus when our faith is challenged.**

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 ***To serve the church and spread the gospel, regardless of the results of those actions.***

**In what ways do you use your gifts to serve your church? What might cause you to stop using your gifts?**

Acts 6:1–15.

**When do you most enjoy following Jesus?**

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**Are there any particular circumstances that make you feel most loved by him?**

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**When do you feel God’s presence the most?**

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**What problem in the church required the apostles to appoint deacons?**

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**What did the apostles need to focus their attention on?**

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**What qualities were the disciples looking for?**

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**In what ways could a service mindset change the ways we interact with our church on Sundays and throughout the week?**

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**What are the practical, mundane needs in your church that you could meet? How might you sacrifice to serve your church?**

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**How do verses 8–10 characterize Stephen when he was preaching and when he was opposed?**

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**What is a common way people respond to opposition in our society?**

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 **In what ways do you respond when someone contradicts or questions you?**

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 **What encouragement or discouragement does it give you knowing that even at your most Christlike, not everyone will like or agree with you?**

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**Even so, what should our behavior look like towards those who actively oppose us?**

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**Would you classify the hardships experienced by Christians in your community as opposition or persecution? Why or why not?**

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**What circumstances, if any, tend to make you want to downplay your faith in Jesus? When is it difficult to be an outspoken Christian?**

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**What experiences in your own life tempt you to stop telling people about Jesus?**

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**What is Stephen’s legacy? What was his reward?**

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**What would it look like for you to look forward to God’s reward in your current circumstances? What could it practically look like to trust God with today?**