

# **WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Week of Sunday May 31, 2026**

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## INTRODUCTION

In **Acts 6–7**, Stephen shows us what it looks like to live fully surrendered to Jesus even under pressure. God is not inviting people into empty religion, performance, or outward appearances. He is inviting people into genuine surrender where Jesus truly becomes Lord over every part of life. Many of us know what God is asking us to do, yet we still wrestle with fear, delay, comfort, or control. This passage challenges us to stop resisting truth and begin responding to Jesus with trust, obedience, and courage.

### **Main Passage:**

Acts 7:51–60

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

# Truth Under Pressure

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### READ ALOUD

Acts 7:51–60

**Opening Question:** What is something that felt difficult or uncomfortable at first, but became easier once you committed to it?

- What stands out to you most in this passage?
- What do you notice about Stephen’s response under pressure?
- What do you think this passage reveals about what it means to believe Jesus is truly Lord?
- Where might this truth challenge the way people normally respond to pressure, fear, or conflict?

### APPLY

- What is one area of your life where surrender to Jesus feels difficult right now?
- Where are you most tempted to delay obedience instead of responding immediately?
- What would it look like to live this week as if Jesus is truly Lord over your decisions, relationships, and priorities?

### RESPOND

- What is one practical step of obedience you can take this week?
- Who is one person you can encourage, pray for, or share truth with this week?

### **DIGGING DEEPER** *(optional)*

Acts 7:44–53

- What pattern does Stephen point out throughout Israel's history?
- Why do you think people can hear truth yet still resist it?
- How does this section help us better understand the crowd's reaction to Stephen?

### **PRAY**

Spend time asking God to reveal any area of resistance, fear, pride, or delay in your life. Pray for courage to obey Jesus fully and trust Him under pressure. Ask God to help you reflect Jesus in your words, attitudes, and responses this week. Thank Jesus for His grace, forgiveness, and the new life He offers through surrender.

## QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Acts 7:51–60

- What do you think made Stephen so brave?
- Why is it sometimes hard to obey Jesus?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be Lord of our lives?
- How can our family follow Jesus more faithfully this week?

*For younger children:* Help your child understand that Jesus loves them, helps them, and wants them to trust Him every day.

*For older kids or students:* What is one area where following Jesus might require courage or obedience this week?

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## BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

**Scripture to read as you pray this week:**

- **Day 1:** Acts 8:1–8
- **Day 2:** Acts 8:9–25
- **Day 3:** Acts 8:26–40
- **Day 4:** Acts 8:1–25
- **Day 5:** Acts 8:26–40

## What's Going On?

Acts 6–7 is a turning point in the early church. Stephen is introduced as a faithful servant who is full of faith, wisdom, grace, power, and the Holy Spirit. When he is falsely accused and brought before the Sanhedrin, he does not simply defend himself. He walks through Israel's story to show that God has always been moving toward His people and that the story ultimately points to Jesus.

Stephen exposes a painful pattern: God sends, people resist. Joseph was rejected, Moses was resisted, the prophets were persecuted, and Jesus was crucified. The issue was not that the leaders lacked religious knowledge. The issue was that they resisted the Holy Spirit and refused to surrender to Jesus as Lord. Stephen's faithfulness shows us that truth is not just something we believe. It is something that transforms how we live under pressure.

## A Bit of Background

The Sanhedrin was the highest Jewish religious council in Jerusalem. They had major influence over religious life, temple worship, and interpretation of the Law. Stephen's message felt threatening because he was saying Jesus fulfilled the story of Israel and that God's presence was not limited to the temple or their religious system.

When Stephen calls them "stiff-necked," he is using Old Testament language for stubborn resistance to God. His point is not that they were irreligious, but that they looked faithful on the outside while resisting God on the inside. Stephen seeing Jesus standing at the right hand of God reminds us that even when the world rejects him, Jesus receives, honors, and stands with His people.