



### ***What to Know***

WE ARE  
JUMPING BACK INTO  
THE BOOK OF ACTS

THIS IS A  
FOUR WEEK SERIES

THE BOOK OF ACTS  
CHRONICLES THE  
EARLY YEARS OF THE  
CHURCH AND IS  
RECORDED BY LUKE,  
THE PHYSICIAN.

THE "MOODY BIBLE  
COMMENTARY" COVERS  
THIS SERIES ON PAGES  
1682-1689

WEEK 1 - ACTS 4:32-5:11  
WEEK 2 - ACTS 5:12-42  
WEEK 3 - ACTS 5:17-42  
WEEK 4 - ACTS 6:1-8

### ***What to Do***

I hope you know that I desire each individual Life Group to operate as a unique family unit. A Life Group is made up of individuals that contribute to the overall health and function of the group. But no two Life Groups will look the same, just like no two families will look the same.

Because of this, one group may be in a season where deep Bible study is desired and easily achievable. While another group may be in a season where the most you can do is check in on one another and briefly pray because of the busyness of life.

The goal of Life Groups is to help each other learn to live the life that God through Christ has called us to. As with nature, our lives have seasons in which growth, rest, or even death is a natural part of the season. If we are trying to plant flowers in the dead of winter, we will be angry and frustrated because they won't bloom. Knowing what season you're in will help you as you plan and meet each week as a group.

For the rest of this semester, I want us to work hard at meeting our group members where they are, finding out what season they are in so that our group life reflects what they need the most. This document is only a guide, something to help you lead, not tell you everything.

# Fullness

## Acts 6:1-8

### Opening Questions:

Growing up, what solution(s) did your family employ when settling a dispute among family members? How has the solution(s) or method of solution continued to impact you?

Pretend you are picking members of a team (whether that was an elementary school dodgeball team, a volunteer team, or your team at work). What qualities or characteristics do you look for? Why?

**Read:** Acts 6:1-8. *You may also consider reading this passage from multiple translations.*

**Discuss:** Darrell Bock, in his commentary on Acts, states Acts 6:1 "**presents the juxtaposition of two realities in the new community: a growth in the number of disciples and a management problem that this growth is producing among Hellenists and Gentiles.**" What was the complaint that arose among the Christians? Why did the problem arise? **(It was customary for the Jewish people to take care of widows and orphans through the temple authorities via the "daily distribution."** James Montgomery Boice **concludes the problem likely arose as a result of the**

**strained relationship between the temple authorities and the new Christian believers.**)

How did the early church decide to alleviate the problem? Why did the apostles choose to handle the complaint this way? Could there have been a different way of fixing the issue at hand? If so, what would those solutions have been?

Consider your own experience in the church. Was there a time when a problem arose that needed a solution? What was that problem and what was the solution? Whose responsibility was it to find the solution? Whose responsibility was it to apply the solution? What was your role in the problem and/or solution?

In verse 3, as a part of the solution, the apostles said "**Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.**" What does it mean to be of good reputation? Whom do you know of good reputation? What makes this person this way?

What does it mean to be full of the Spirit? How does one live when they are full of the Spirit? Whom do you know that lives that way? In what

way(s) are you personally seeking to walk in step with the Spirit in your day-to-day life?

What is wisdom? Is wisdom something only seasoned people have; can younger people be wise? How does one obtain wisdom? Whom do you know that is wise? Why do you answer this way?

What is the basic difference between what the apostles' role was and what the deacons' role was? Why is it important to understand the difference between the two roles? Do those differences still exist in churches today? If so, how?

Within this section of Scripture, we see Stephen described as full of faith, full of the Holy Spirit, full of grace, and full of power. How does this description help you understand what type of person Stephen was? Of these four descriptions, where do you personally desire to grow in fullness? How will you seek God and seek growth in that area? Are there people in our church or Life Group that look like the description of Stephen? Have you considered offering a word of encouragement or thanks to that person?

Is there anything else in this passage you would like to discuss?