

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Persecution and Christianity

Acts of the Church, Acts 6-7

November 12, 2023

Community Group Discussion Questions

PLEASE READ BEFORE LEADING DISCUSSION

- Recommended questions are highlighted in bold, but select 5 or 6 questions you think will work best for your group discussion. You likely won't have time to discuss all of the questions so choose which questions you will ask ahead of time and make sure to provide plenty of time to focus on the application questions.
- Feel free to edit or reword questions to best fit your group.
- You may want to print out copies of this document for everyone so they can follow along with the questions as you read them.
- Check out this Facilitation Guide (<http://bit.ly/CGFacilitationGuide>) for tips on leading good discussions.

ICEBREAKER (5-10 Minutes)

1. Share your name and one topic you really enjoy learning about.

OPENING THE DISCUSSION (5-10 Minutes) – Have someone recap the message in about a minute or two and then ask the following questions:

2. Ask everyone to look at their sermon notes from Sunday. As you look at each point and scripture, what did you find most helpful or challenging?
3. What are ways Christian's face opposition to our faith today?

DIGGING DEEPER (10 Minutes) – ask everyone to follow along in their Bible or Bible app. You might consider looking up these passages online and sharing your screen to review them together.

4. Read Acts 6:8-15 and 7:51-60.
 - What stands out to you from this story?
 - What can we learn from Stephen's example about responding to opposition to our faith?
 - What are ways Christian's respond poorly to opposition?
5. Read 1 Peter 3:13-16.
 - How should we defend our faith based on these verses?

APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes) –

6. Where have you faced opposition to your faith? How have you responded?
7. What is one way you can better represent or defend your faith?

GROWTH GOALS: ([Print Growth Goal Forms or share the link online](#)) – this may be great to discuss in prayer time.

8. How are your progressing in your growth goal you set at the beginning of the trimester? How can the group encourage and support you in this goal?

PRAYER TIME: Spend part of your prayer time praying for those who are being persecuted for Christ all around the world. Read these 5 ways to pray for the persecuted church before you pray:

<https://forthemartyrs.com/5-ways-to-pray-for-persecuted-christians/>