

The Day the Fire Spread

Acts 6:1–7:60

Introduction:



Ordinary People. Extraordinary Impact. One Holy Spirit!

I. The Spirit empowers ordinary people to _____ faithfully. [6:1-7]
(*cf. Mark 10:43-45; John 13:12-17; Galatians 5:13; Colossians 3:23-24*)

II. The Spirit empowers ordinary people to _____ boldly. [6:8—7:53]
(*cf. Luke 12:11-12; Acts 4:13; 2 Timothy 1:6-8*)

III. The Spirit empowers ordinary people to _____ gracefully. [7:54-60]
(*cf. Matthew 25:21,23; Luke 9:23-26; Romans 16-17; 2 Corinthians 4:7-11; Hebrews 12:2*)

For Group Discussion

Personal

Think of someone “ordinary” who made a big difference in your life. What made their influence so powerful?

From the Sermon: “*The Day the Fire Spread*” [Acts 6:1–7:60]

Big Idea: Ordinary People. Extraordinary Impact. One Holy Spirit!

- I. The Spirit empowers ordinary people to Serve Faithfully. [6:1-6]
 1. What qualities did the apostles look for in those chosen to serve (v.3)? Why are those spiritual qualifications essential even for “ordinary” tasks?
 2. Stephen and Philip started serving tables, yet God later used them to preach powerfully. What does this teach us about how faithfulness in small things leads to greater impact?
 3. Where might God be calling you to serve quietly or behind the scenes right now?
- II. The Spirit empowers ordinary people to Speak Boldly. [6:8--7:53]
 1. How does Luke describe Stephen’s character and witness in 6:8–10?
 2. What do you notice about the way Stephen defends his faith in chapter 7? How does he connect his story to God’s larger redemptive plan?
 3. Why do you think Stephen’s message provoked such a strong reaction (7:54)?
 4. When have you felt pressure to stay silent about your faith? What might it look like for you to speak truth with both courage and grace this week?
- III. The Spirit empowers ordinary people to Suffer Gracefully. [7:54-60]
 1. What stands out to you about Stephen’s vision of Jesus? Why is it significant that Jesus is *standing* (v.55–56)?
 2. How do Stephen’s final words echo Jesus’ words on the cross (Luke 23:34, 46)?
 3. What effect did Stephen’s death have on the church and on Saul (Acts 8:1–4; 22:20)?
 4. How does fixing your eyes on Jesus help you respond with grace when you’re misunderstood or mistreated?

Application

1. In what ways do you see yourself as “ordinary”? How might that be exactly where God wants to demonstrate His power?
2. What step of faith could you take this week that depends on the Holy Spirit’s strength, not your own?
3. How can our group pray for one another to live Spirit-empowered, extraordinary-impact lives?