

# Lake Merced Church of Christ

## Home Groups

### What Now? - Testing of the Holy Spirit

#### Ice Breaker

Josh began his message by sharing some of his favorite superheroes and why he liked them. Who is your favorite superhero and why? What is it about them that you view as extraordinary?

#### Opening Prayer

Open by inviting God to leave you awe-inspired, amazed and perplexed by God's bigness and mercy.

#### Discussion

Read Acts 6-7 together as a group and then discuss the following questions as the Holy Spirit leads.

1. Acts 6 describes Stephen as being "full" of five different things. What are those things? What do you think it means to be full of them? How do you think a person gets "full?"
2. Because of his being "full," we're told that Stephen is performing great wonders and signs among the people. How do you tend to think about miraculous things? Is it ever hard for you to believe that God might still work this way today? Have you experienced anything that was clearly the work and intervention of God in your own life?
3. Josh mentioned that Stephen was accused of speaking against four things by the Sanhedrin: Moses, God, The Temple and The Law. As you read through chapter 7 as a group, try to identify how Stephen addresses those specific accusations in his speech. How would you summarize Stephen's posture toward Moses, God, Temple and Law?
4. In Acts 7:51, Stephen tells the Sanhedrin they "always resist the Holy Spirit." Do you ever feel like the Church is guilty of doing the same? Josh mentioned three ways that he sees Christians resist the Holy Spirit: our complacency, our sin, and our piety. Do you agree or disagree? Why? Also, are there other ways that we resist the Holy Spirit today?
5. From Sunday's message, contrast the Sanhedrin's response to the bigness of God (Acts 7:57-58) with Job's response (Job 42:1-6). Why do you think it's so easy for us to shut our ears and our hearts toward God?
6. If there was one thing you wish the Church would understand about God or change in its posture toward God, what would it be and why? What do you think the Church needs to hear that we've shut our ears toward? What have you been unwilling to hear that you feel convicted you should have been more open to?

#### Closing Prayer

As you close in prayer, ask God to bless the Church throughout the world, in this country and specifically at Lake Merced. Ask God's Holy Spirit to put us on mission and encourage us to live out a living and active faith.