



#6 - "Our Story - Whatever The Cost?"

### **An Issue To Resolve:**

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. Acts 6: 1

- Always Give People The *BENEFIT* Of The Doubt

"... always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres ..." Corinthians 13:7

- When You Have An Issue, Always Go Straight To The *SOURCE*

"If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back." Matthew 18:15

*"We All Have A Story, We All Have A Narrative Of Who You Are, That Story Will Drive You And Shape You And Ultimately Define Your Life."*

### **What Story Are You Living For?**

#### **Narrative Themes of Stephens Story:**

##### 1. SERVICE

"And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>5</sup> 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. ... and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit". Acts 6:2-5

- Serve In A Place Of SKILL
- Serve In A Place Of PASSION
- Serve In A Place Of Greatest NEED

##### 2. TRUTH

You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they gnashed their teeth at him."

Acts 7:51-52

##### 3. GRACE

"...falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep." Acts 7:60

#### 4. Jesus Is LORD

<sup>58</sup> Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."  
Acts 7:58-59

## Life Group Discussion Guide

Connect. Grow. Move. For more info contact pastor Joshua at: [Joshua@waipunachapel.com](mailto:Joshua@waipunachapel.com)

1. What one thing most impacted you about this weekend's message?
2. Pastor Shaun asked the question "What story are you living for?". He gave two examples of individual cultural icons, Rihanna and Lance Armstrong, whose stories shaped and defined their lives. Discuss with your group the impact of "the stories" you have observed in the lives of the people God has placed around you.
3. Read Acts 6:1-7. How have you seen "complaining" disrupt unity in the church? How can we guard against it?
4. Discuss the four themes that are present in the story of Stephens life: Service, Truth, Grace and The Lordship of Jesus. How did narrative themes help him navigate through his arrest, trail and eventual murder? How have these themes shaped and defined your life story?
5. The questions below will help reveal "the story" you are living for.
  - In your conversations with people, what do you want to make sure people know about you?
  - When you're alone where does your mind go effortlessly?
  - What is it that, if you failed at it or lost it, would actually cause you to feel like you wouldn't want to carry on?
  - What goal or desire, if unreached, would make you seriously consider turning away from God? Discuss your answer with your group.
6. Read Acts 7 as a group, then discuss the following two questions:
  - Stephen was accused of speaking against Jewish tradition, Moses, the Law and the Temple. Jesus was accused of the same thing during His ministry. How did Stephen defend himself?
  - There are a number of similarities between the death of Jesus and the death of Stephen - As a group try to identify them.
7. Pray for each other that the Holy Spirit would keep you faithful to Jesus and his mission for the world and the church.

### Week 6 S.O.A.P Journal Reading Plan

Monday	Acts 11:19-30	Tuesday	Acts 12:1-9
Wednesday	Acts 12:20-13:12	Thursday	Acts 13:13-31
Friday	Acts 13:32-43		

### Sources:

JD Greear "Sent - Important lessons from ordinary Christians" - Summit Church

<https://www.summitrdu.com/message/stephen-5-important-lessons-acts-6-7/>

Beau Hughes "Acts - Better Than Life" - Village Church \_ Dallas Texas

<https://www.tvresources.net/resource-library/sermons/better-than-life>

Feedback or Questions? Contact [Shaun@waipunachapel.com](mailto:Shaun@waipunachapel.com)