



Week 6: August 16-22

10min Welcome / Introduce Guests / Share Life
Recall the Guidelines / Open in Prayer

2min **Share the Vision: Relationships that are centered around the gospel naturally lead to multiplication. Let's invite others to connect with our discipleship group. Our vision is to raise up a leader and branch this group!**

5min **Hook Question:** Who do you know that is a great servant? What makes them great?

2min **Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:**

Stephen, one of the first deacons in the Bible, was a great servant. He was regarded by the first church as a man of good reputation who was full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. The Bible says that God did great signs and wonders through Stephen in front of many people. Stephen was so committed to Jesus that he became the first martyr for Jesus (a martyr for Jesus is someone who literally dies for their faith). How did Stephen go from being an ordinary person to becoming a great hero of the faith? For us to answer that question, we must go back to the first story about Stephen in the Bible. That story reveals one significantly important truth about Stephen: he was an incredible and selfless servant.

By the way Stephen lived, he took these words of Jesus to heart from Mark 10:

42 And Jesus called [his disciples] to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

One of the most significant shifts that a Christian makes in their journey of faith is moving from being self-centered to being God and others centered. Stephen was a great martyr and hero of our faith. His journey started with service. Our story of growing in faith must start with service, too. This is where our story begins...

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

Tell the story from Acts 6:1-8: Remember to change up the storyteller often.

Rebuild the story: Group members retell the story based on what they remember.

Read the story from Acts 6:1-8: Ask the group to read these verses.

12min

Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

- Head Questions: Quicker tempo.
- Heart & Hand Questions: Slow down & wait!
- What stands out to the most in this story? Why?
 - What does this story teach us about us as people?
 - What does this story teach us about God?
 - Would you characterize yourself as primarily being self-centered or God and others centered?
 - If self-centered, ask, "What do you consider to be your greatest challenge to becoming more God and others centered?"
 - If God and others centered, ask, "What did God do to help you become less self-centered and more God and others centered?"

- What is God speaking to you about right now and how do you need to apply this story to your life?
- Who could retell the story for us? **CHALLENGE:** Tell the story to someone this week!

Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in prayer.