

Week # 2
“Acts: Mission, Movement, & Mandate of the Church” Series
Cedar Grove Church – April 10, 2016

Participants Guide

Acts 6 – 11
Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh



GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. An outline of chapters 6 to 11 of Acts was given as follows:
 - Ch. 6 – Complaint (v.1); Stephen (v.8-9)
 - Ch. 7 – Stephen’s Speech (v.1-3); Stoning (v.54-60)
 - Ch. 8 – Scattering (v.1-8); Samaria (v.14-18); Ethiopian (v.26-36)
 - Ch. 9 – Conversion (v. 1-6,26); Healings (v.34-35;40-42)
 - Ch. 10 – Gentiles (v.1-3); Vision (v.17-19); Reformation (v.27-29;40-46)
 - Ch. 11 – Criticism (v.1-4); Church Planting (v.25-26)

2. Sometimes complaints are justified and helpful. What was it that caused the Hellenistic Jewish Christians to complain against the Hebraic Jewish Christians in the early Church?

3. The Jewish leaders rose up in fury against Stephen and stoned him to death! What was it that Stephen did that caused such anger and evil reaction?

4. Were these Jewish leaders justified in their complaints against Stephen? Yes or no? If not, why not? What circumstances or guidelines make a complaint legitimate?

5. As a result of the stoning of Stephen, persecution arose against the Church causing many of these early Christians to scatter all over the then-known world. As a result, the Gospel spread, the church grew, and many more people came to faith in Jesus Christ (e.g. in Samaria, Ethiopia, Caesarea, Tarsus, Antioch, etc.!) **Do you** (truly, really, from the bottom of your heart) **believe** that God can work ALL things out for good, as He did here? Share some of your experiences of how you’ve seen God work in your own life, in the midst of and out of bad events or circumstances. (cf. Romans 8:28)

6. What is the difference between a legitimate “complaint” and “a complaining spirit?” Please define the two.

7. Someone with a complaining spirit tends to be divisive in the Body of Christ. What is the biblical way to address someone who has a complaining spirit?

8. Leaders can face many criticisms. Sometimes they are legitimate. Often they are not. **Hebrews 13:17** gives us this biblical reminder and guideline: *Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.* (NIV) Ultimately every leader will give an account to God for the greater responsibility they have before God as leaders. List some things you/we can do individually and as a group that will make their work a joy and not a burden?

PRAYER TIME:

1. Make time to share needs that members may have and close in prayer.

2. Pray especially for leaders of your church by name and pray wisdom, protection and blessing upon them.

This Week’s Reading Assignment: Acts, Chapters 6-11

Memory verse: Acts 11:18 – “*When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, ‘So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.’*”