

Stay Hungry For More

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Based on the message by Pastor Mirek Hufton

1. SERMON RECAP

In this message, I challenged us to look at the life of Stephen -- an ordinary man who simply waited tables -- and see how his relentless hunger for God transformed him into one of the most extraordinary figures in the entire New Testament. Stephen pressed so deeply into God that his very face shone like an angel, and when he faced death, Jesus Himself stood up in heaven to honor him. The invitation is simple but life-changing: stop settling for ordinary Christianity and start pressing in for everything God has for you.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

Acts 7:55-56 (NKJV)

"But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, 'Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!'"

3. ICE BREAKER

Think of someone in your life -- past or present -- who just seemed to glow with something different about them. What was it that stood out, and what do you think produced it?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The Ordinary Made Extraordinary

Stephen's original assignment was simply to wait tables and be a person of good reputation filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:3). Why do you think God often starts us in humble, unseen roles before expanding our influence? What does faithfulness in small things reveal about a person's heart?

2. Pressing In vs. Showing Up

I mentioned men like T.L. Lowry and Ted Shuttlesworth who spent hours every single day in the Word and in prayer. Most of us would say we don't have that kind of time. Where do you honestly think the gap is -- time, priority, or desire? What does "pressing into God" actually look like in a real, everyday life?

3. Cut to the Heart -- Two Very Different Responses

When Peter preached at Pentecost, the people were "cut to the heart" and asked, "What shall we do?" When Stephen preached, the people were also "cut to the heart" -- but they gnashed their teeth and stoned him. Both groups felt the same conviction. What made the difference in how they responded? Have you ever felt genuinely convicted by God and chosen to justify yourself instead of repent? What happened?

4. The Glory on Stephen's Face

I talked about how Stephen's face looked like the face of an angel -- something his accusers could visibly see. That kind of presence doesn't come from a weekend of good feelings; it comes from sustained time with God. What do you think people currently see when they look at your life? And honestly, what would you want them to see?

5. Releasing Others in the Spirit

As Stephen was being stoned, he knelt down and prayed, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." I believe there's a direct connection between Stephen's act of forgiveness and Saul's eventual transformation on the Damascus road. Is there someone in your life -- someone who has genuinely hurt you or opposed what God is doing in your life -- that you need to release in prayer? What makes that so difficult?

6. Jesus Stood Up

Normally, Scripture tells us Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father. But when Stephen was martyred, Jesus stood up. That detail is not accidental. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus stands in honor of those who press in, pay the price, and stay faithful under pressure? How does that image change the way you face hard seasons?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, add 15 intentional minutes to your time with God -- and protect it.

Don't just add it to your schedule -- guard it. Put your phone in another room. Close the door. Use 10 of those minutes in the Word (consider reading Acts 6-7 in full) and 5 minutes in quiet, unhurried prayer. At the end of the week, journal one honest sentence about what shifted -- even slightly -- in how you felt, thought, or treated someone. Come back next week ready to share it.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for genuine hunger -- Ask God to stir a deep, unsatisfied longing in each group member that won't be quieted by religious routine or comfortable Christianity.
 - Pray for courage under pressure -- Lift up anyone in the group who is currently facing opposition, criticism, or a situation where the easy road is compromise. Ask God to let His glory show on their face the way it did on Stephen's.
 - Pray for those who need to repent -- Without naming names, ask the Holy Spirit to give each person the grace to respond to conviction the way Acts 2 describes -- with an open, surrendered heart rather than a hardened, self-protective one.
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7. MEMORY VERSE

Acts 6:8 (NKJV)

"And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people."

Leader's Note: Don't rush question 5 -- it often opens the most meaningful conversation of the night. Give people room to sit with it. Silence is okay. The Holy Spirit does His best work in the unhurried moments.