



# The Church: Persecuted but Spreading

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**BIG IDEA:** Local **FAITHFULNESS** launches the gospel of **FORGIVENESS** globally

## Church Organization

Acts 6:1-10

- The apostles...
  - Realize a **PROBLEM**
  - Faithfully create organization
  - Install leaders such as Philip and **STEPHEN**

## False Accusation and Rebuttal

Acts 6:11-7:53

- Stephen accused of speaking against Moses (the Law) and against the temple
- Stephen's Sermon
  - The similarities of Moses and **JESUS**
  - Two revolutionary principles
    - God also works **OUTSIDE** of Israel
    - God's presence is not tied to the **TEMPLE** in Jerusalem
  - Patterns of people **REJECTING** God throughout the Old Testament

## Persecution

Acts 7:54-60; Matthew 26:64; Luke 23:34, 46

- Prayer and **FORGIVENESS**
- First Christian **MARTYR**

## Gospel Spreads

Acts 8:1-4, 1:8

- Persecution leads to fulfillment of **ACTS 1:8**



Online Notes

Follow us for encouragement during the week --->



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KEEP  
READING  
→

## WHY does it matter/**WHAT** does it mean for me?

1. Be known, get involved Acts 6:1-7
2. Who is someone you need to **FORGIVE**?
  - Forgiveness is not natural it is **SUPERNATURAL** Ephesians 4:31-32; Ezekiel 36:26-27
3. Who can you share the message of forgiveness with? \_\_\_\_\_  
Ephesians 1:7; 2 Peter 3:9
4. How will God use **YOU**? Acts 6:10
  - What **IDEA** is holding you back from becoming all you can be in Christ?

### Memory Verse:

*But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.*  
Acts 6:10 ESV

### Recommended Resources:

- [Evidence that Demands a Verdict](#) by Josh and Sean McDowell
- [Total Forgiveness](#) by R.T. Kendall
- [The Church Boldly Expands \(Acts 3-5\) Message](#)



Online Notes

### My next step today is to...

- Memorize Acts 6:10
- Repent and accept Jesus as my Savior and submit to His Lordship for the first time!
- Go public as a follower of Jesus and get baptized
- Attend the next Start Here experience
- Read Acts chapter 6-8:4 this week
- Check out the Sunday Extra Podcast to go deeper with the discussion on Acts
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### Additional Notes:

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