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Read this week's scripture and answer the questions below. As you read, consider how these verses fit into what you are seeing or experiencing today. Prepare to share with your small group anything that jumped out at you, confused you, encourage you, challenged or convicted you.

1. Before you read chapter 6, ask God to help you not only understand but also to live out this week's lesson as revealed in the word. Read all of Acts Chapter 6.
2. Focus on verses 1-4. The early church faces criticism and responds. What do we learn from this example? Pray for our local churches today: for humility, wisdom, for courage.
3. In these same verses, 1-4, we see the delegation of duties. What gifts, talents and opportunities do you see the Lord leading you toward. Bring these thoughts to the Lord in prayer today and be prepared to bring them to your group next week. Pray for clarity and commitment.
4. In verses 5-8 we meet Stephen. What character traits is Stephen known for? We've considered the work God might be calling us to, but let's go deeper. What are the character traits calling us to (or away from). God is working without and within. Spend time listening to him today.
5. Spend time with verses 8 and 9. Opponents rise up to dispute Stephen; they could not match his wisdom and the power of the Spirit. When disputes arise, who/what do you turn to? Your own wisdom or that founded on the Word and born of the spirit? Pray for alignment of your will with his will? Does this lead you to repentance, letting go of habits, hardheadedness that put you at odds with the Lord? Do business with the Lord today.
6. Consider verses 11-15, especially verse 14. Have we let buildings and customs gain too much importance? What are the beliefs we must hold on to? Pray for discernment today, for wisdom to separate core convictions from personal preferences.
7. Consider verse 15. Stephen's face seems like that of an angel. What does this indicate about a life fully surrendered to Jesus? Let's end this week as we started. What is the Lord calling you to? Stay in the Word; stay in fellowship and pray for the Lord's leading in your life. Don't forget to listen.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.