



St. Andrew

Growth Group Activities

April 26

Acts 6:8-15

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

1. Pastor Hunter likened Stephen's enemies to a pack of wolves. Why do wolves always come after the flock of God's people?

Read John 10:11-15. What comfort is in those verses?

2. What shows that these wolves were desperate for a guilty verdict? Look at verses 11 and 13.
3. What did Stephen have that the "wolves" did not? See John 16:13 for help.
4. God's people have the truth on their side. Explain how that makes a difference in your life.
5. Give an example of a truth from God's Word that is attacked by today's wolves.

6. Like Stephen, Jesus was accused of devaluing the law of Moses. Read Matthew 5:17 to hear the truth.

7. You and I are commanded to obey God's law and we are told we do not need to obey God's law. Explain how both statements are true.

8. Read Matthew 27:51a. What is the significance?

9. God was with Stephen during his trial. What made that clear?

God is also with you. See Psalm 66:19



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April 19

Acts 6:1-7

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

1. In Acts 6:1, for the first time Luke uses the word “disciples” to identify those who were joining the church. Disciple means to be devoted to someone in order to learn from their teachings. It also means to follow those teachings. What makes you want to be a disciple of Jesus?
I want to follow Jesus because he is the only way to be saved. Jesus speaks the truth. I follow Jesus because he loves me and cares for me.
2. To look down on the Hebrew Jews for overlooking the Greek widows is a form of judging that Jesus condemns in Matthew 7:1. What is a better way to look at what happened?
Assume it was an honest mistake. We should not jump to a conclusion because we can't see the heart.
3. Jesus gave Peter, John and others the power to perform miracles. This helped the church by increasing its credibility. If the church would not solve this intra-church conflict in Acts 6, its credibility would decrease. Explain.
If the church would fight among themselves, they would not give the world a good example of the love that Jesus wants us to have for one another. People would be less likely to listen to their message because they would see only hypocrites.
4. Fixing a problem the wrong way often leads to a new problem. The disciples avoided creating a new problem with their solution.
Agree or Disagree. The problem they avoided would have been a bigger problem.
The problem of neglecting the Word would be a bigger problem. The Word is most important and must be the highest priority of the church, even above helping the needy. But their solution allowed for both and gives us a model to follow.

5. What lesson can St. Andrew learn from the comments of the disciples in addressing the problem? Read Acts 6:2-4.

We need to be sure we are allowing called staff to remain focused on sharing the Word and leave other aspects of ministry to the lay people or additional staff.

6. Getting people into ministry is a good thing. Is that better for St. Andrew, the member, or the kingdom? Support your answer.

It is good for all of the above. It gives the member an opportunity to show their love to their Savior. It allows for more ministry and often stronger ministry at St. Andrew when more people are serving. The more ministry and stronger ministry we have at St. Andrew increases our visibility and makes us more attractive to the community.

7. Luke tells us many priests left their prestigious priestly positions to become disciples of Jesus. That took humility. Compare their humility with the humility that you have in following Jesus.

They realized that their service as priests had ended as they realized the importance of Jesus' sacrifice. They humbly acknowledged Jesus' sacrifice was superior to their work and made it obsolete.

Christians follow Jesus knowing he alone is our hope of salvation. We cannot save ourselves and so we humbly turn to our Savior and seek his mercy.



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