

THE BOOK OF **ACTS**

Part 2

THE CHURCH GROWS

THE **ACTS** OF THE APOSTLES

The Promise of the Holy Spirit
1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning 2 until the day when he was taken to heaven, after giving instructions to the apostles whom he chose by the Holy Spirit. 3 In his suffering he promised to send the Holy Spirit on you by the gift of baptism. 4 After that you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and in the ends of the earth." 9 When they were watching, he was taken up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 As they were looking up into the sky, he said, "Fare you well. I am sending you the promise of my Father, which you have heard. Now you will see it." 11 Then they bowed their heads and returned to Jerusalem. 12 They stayed continually in the temple, and broke bread every day. 13 Many of the priests were becoming believers. 14 A great number of priests were becoming believers, and a great number of the Levites, too. 15 The church grew greatly in Jerusalem, and many people became believers there.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

2026



Celebrating **75 YEARS**

THE BOOK OF **ACTS**

Part 2

THE CHURCH GROWS

THE **ACTS** OF THE APOSTLES

The Promise of the Holy Spirit
1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from beginning ²until the day when he was taken to heaven, after giving instructions to the apostles whom he chose by the Holy Spirit. He was suffering he promised them by many conversations.

you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When they were watching, he was taken up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. He was going and he was going up to heaven, and he was sitting on the right hand of God. They were saying to one another, "He has been taken up, and we do not know where he is going."

**JUN
07**

GROWING THROUGH MIRACLES
ACTS 3:1-10

**JUN
14**

GROWING THROUGH TRUTH
ACTS 3:11-17

**JUN
21**

**GROWING THROUGH
OPPOSITION**
ACTS 4:1-12

**JUN
28**

GROWING IN BOLD FAITH
ACTS 4:13-22 // BAPTISM SERVICE

**JUL
05**

**GROWING THROUGH
THE HOLY SPIRIT**
ACTS 4:23-31

**JUL
12**

GROWING THROUGH UNITY
ACTS 4:32-37

**JUL
19**

**GROWING THROUGH
DISCIPLINE**
ACTS 5:1-11

**JUL
26**

**GROWING THROUGH
OBEDIENCE IN PERSECUTION**
ACTS 5:17-41

**AUG
02**

**GROWING THROUGH
CARE & STRUCTURE**
ACTS 6:1-7

**AUG
09**

**GROWING EVEN
WHEN IT HURTS**
ACTS 6:8-7:53

**AUG
16**

**GROWING THROUGH
SACRIFICE & FORGIVENESS**
ACTS 7:54-60

2026

CLAYTON CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Celebrating **75 YEARS**

Watch the sermon here!



Read: Acts 3:1-11

Icebreaker

Have you ever experienced an answer to prayer or a moment where you clearly saw God's hand at work? What impact did it have on your faith?

Invitation

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to speak)

- The lame man expected to receive money, but God wanted to give him something far greater. Have there been times when God answered your prayers differently than you expected?
- Peter and John saw more than a beggar; they saw someone God wanted to restore. How might God be inviting you to see people differently this week?
- What stands out to you most about this miracle, and what do you sense God highlighting to you personally?

Conviction

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to bring awareness and change)

- Ps Tim spoke about how easily we can become focused on ourselves, our needs, our reputation, or our success. Where do you see self-focus competing with God's purposes in your life?
- The lame man spent years sitting outside the temple gates. Are there areas where you have settled for less than the fullness of life and relationship with God that He offers?
- Peter was careful to point people to Jesus rather than himself. When God works in your life, do you naturally give Him the glory, or are there times when you seek recognition for yourself?

Surrender

(Being willing to lay down our lives)

- The healed man responded by walking, leaping, and praising God. What is one thing that may be preventing you from fully experiencing the joy and freedom God desires for you?
- Ps Tim reminded us that God's timing and purposes are often different from our own. What situation do you need to surrender to God's sovereignty and trust Him with?
- The hymn quoted in the sermon ends with the words, "None of self and all of Thee." What area of your life is God asking you to place more fully in His hands?

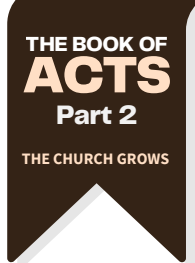
Belief

(Embedding truth and seeing discipleship change)

- This miracle was a sign that Jesus was still alive and working through His people by the Holy Spirit. How does that strengthen your faith today?
- The lame man moved from being outside the temple to entering God's presence with joy. What does this teach us about what Jesus has done for us through the gospel?
- Ps Tim reminded us that miracles are not primarily about human power, but about revealing the glory of Jesus. How does that shape your understanding of miracles?
- What is one truth from this passage that you want to remember and live out this week?

Pray for one another:

- To grow in faith and trust in Jesus
- To recognise God's work even when it looks different from what we expect
- To be free from pride and self-focus
- To point others to Jesus through our words and actions



JUN
14

GROWING THROUGH TRUTH

ACTS 3:11-17

Watch the sermon here!



Read: Acts 3:11-26

Miracles may capture attention, but it is the truth of Jesus that transforms hearts. We are called to point people beyond God's power to God's saving grace.

Invitation

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to speak)

Read: Acts 3:11-16

- What stood out to you most from this week's message or passage?
- Peter quickly redirected attention away from himself and toward Jesus. Why is this important?
- Where might God be inviting you to see Jesus more clearly in this season?

Conviction

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to bring awareness and change)

Read: Acts 3:17-19

- Peter spoke truth not to condemn, but to lead people to repentance. Why can truth sometimes be difficult to give or receive?
- Ps Sheron shared that many people seek God's hand (what He can do for them) rather than God's face (relationship with Him). Which do you find yourself seeking more often?
- Is there an area of your life where God may be calling you to turn back to Him?

Surrender

(Laying Down Our Lives Before Jesus)

Read: Acts 3:19-20

- What does repentance practically look like in everyday life?
- Peter saw an opportunity to speak about Jesus and responded in faith. What opportunities might God be placing in front of you to point others toward Him?
- What fears or obstacles do you need to surrender to God so you can be a more faithful witness?

Belief

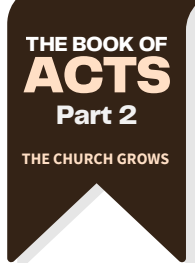
(Embracing Truth and Living as Disciples)

Read: Romans 10:14-17

- Why is it important that people hear the message of Jesus and not just see good works?
- How does Peter's transformation from denying Jesus to boldly proclaiming Him encourage you?
- What is one truth from this passage you want to carry into this week?

Prayer Together:

- Thank Jesus for His grace and forgiveness.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas that need repentance and surrender.
- Pray for courage to point others toward Jesus.
- Ask God to help you recognise opportunities to share His truth this week.



**JUN
21**

GROWING THROUGH OPPOSITION ACTS 4:1-12

Watch the sermon here!



Read: Acts 4:1-12

Invitation

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to speak)

- When you hear the word "opposition," what comes to mind? Where are you currently experiencing resistance, pressure, or challenge in your faith journey?
- Peter and John faced opposition because they spoke about Jesus. Are there situations where you find it difficult to openly identify yourself as a follower of Christ? Why?
- What part of this passage stands out to you most, and what might the Holy Spirit be highlighting in your life through it?

Conviction

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to bring awareness and change)

- Ps Kyle pointed out that the religious leaders were not upset about the miracle itself, but about the truth of Jesus being proclaimed. Have there been times when you've been tempted to soften, avoid, or stay silent about Jesus in order to avoid discomfort or conflict?
- Opposition revealed what was in Peter's heart. What do your responses to pressure, criticism, or opposition reveal about what you truly trust in?
- Peter once denied Jesus out of fear, yet later stood boldly before powerful authorities. Where might fear of rejection, approval, or consequences still be holding you back from fully following Jesus?

Surrender

(Laying Down Our Lives Before Jesus)

- Peter's boldness came from being filled with the Holy Spirit, not from his own strength. What area of your life do you need to surrender to the Holy Spirit's empowering presence?
- Is there a conversation, relationship, or situation where God may be calling you to stand faithfully for truth with both courage and grace?
- What would it look like for you this week to trust Jesus more than your desire for comfort, acceptance, or control?

Belief

(Embracing Truth and Living as Disciples)

- Acts 4:12 declares that salvation is found in Jesus alone. Why is this truth both encouraging and challenging in today's culture?
- Ps Kyle reminded us that opposition does not create faith—it reveals it. How have you seen God use challenges or opposition to strengthen your faith in the past?
- Peter's story reminds us that failure is never final with Jesus. How does Peter's transformation encourage you in your own discipleship journey?
- What is one truth from this passage that you want to carry with you this week?

Prayer Together:

- For courage to stand firm in faith when facing opposition.
- For sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading.
- For opportunities to point others to Jesus with both truth and grace.
- For confidence that Jesus can redeem our failures and continue to use us for His purposes.

Watch the sermon here!



Read: Acts 4:13–22

Invitation

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to speak)

Peter and John's boldness wasn't the result of natural confidence or impressive qualifications. The religious leaders recognised something far greater—they had been with Jesus. As they spent time with Him, they became more like Him.

- What part of this passage or Sunday's message stood out to you most? Why?
- What does it look like to be someone who has "been with Jesus"?
- If someone observed your life this week, what evidence might they see that you've been spending time with Jesus?

Conviction

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to bring awareness and change)

The religious leaders were concerned with protecting their reputation and authority, while Peter and John were concerned with obeying God.

Boldness isn't simply about speaking more loudly—it's about trusting God more deeply than we fear people.

- Where do you find yourself seeking the approval of others more than the approval of God?
- Is fear, comfort or insecurity preventing you from stepping into something God is asking of you?
- What might the Holy Spirit be gently revealing about your relationship with Jesus or your trust in Him?

Surrender

(Laying Down Our Lives Before Jesus)

Peter and John declared, "We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Their obedience flowed from a life surrendered to Christ.

As disciples, surrender means placing our fears, reputation, comfort and future into Jesus' hands.

- What is one area of your life that Jesus may be inviting you to surrender more fully?
- What would it look like to prioritise being with Jesus this week rather than simply doing things for Him?
- Is there one conversation, opportunity or act of obedience you sense God inviting you to step into?

Belief

(Embracing Truth and Living as Disciples)

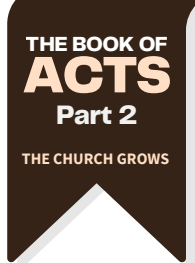
Our confidence isn't found in ourselves but in Jesus.

As we remain with Him, the Holy Spirit transforms ordinary people into faithful witnesses who reflect His character and courage.

- What truth from this passage do you want to carry with you this week?
- How would your life look different if you genuinely believed that Jesus is your confidence rather than your own ability?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to intentionally be with Jesus so that others may see Him in you?

Prayer Together:

- Thank Jesus that He welcomes ordinary people and delights in transforming them.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to make you more like Christ as you spend time with Him.



**JUL
05**

GROWING THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 4:23-31

Watch the sermon here!



Read: Acts 4:23-31

Invitation

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to speak)

Peter and John responded to opposition by gathering with other believers and praying. Rather than asking for comfort or protection, they prayed for boldness and for God's name to be glorified.

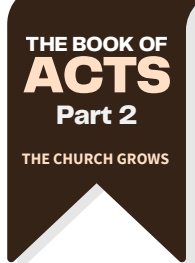
- What stands out to you most about the believers' prayer in this passage?
- When you face pressure, uncertainty or difficulty, what is usually your first response?
- As you listen to this passage, what do you sense the Holy Spirit drawing your attention to today?

Conviction

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to bring awareness and change)

Ps Duc shared that our prayers reveal what is ruling our hearts. The early church's prayers were centred on God's Kingdom and His mission, even in the midst of suffering.

- If someone listened to your prayers over the past month, what would they say matters most to you?
- Is there an area where fear, comfort or self-preservation has been shaping your decisions more than trust in God?



**JUL
05**

GROWING THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 4:23-31

Watch the sermon here!



Surrender

(Laying Down Our Lives Before Jesus)

The believers didn't ask God to remove the opposition—they asked Him to fill them with the Holy Spirit so they could continue speaking boldly.

- Is there a difficult circumstance that you've only been asking God to remove, instead of asking how He might use it for His glory?
- What would it look like this week to surrender that situation to God and invite the Holy Spirit to work through it?

Belief

(Embracing Truth and Living as Disciples)

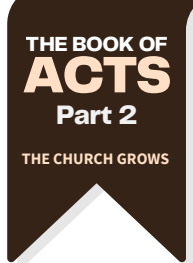
After they prayed, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke God's Word boldly. Their confidence came from God's presence and power—not from favourable circumstances.

- What truth from this passage do you need to believe more deeply this week?
- How does knowing that the Holy Spirit empowers ordinary believers encourage you in sharing your faith?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to depend on the Holy Spirit and live more boldly for Jesus?

Prayer Together:

Spend some time praying for one another.

- Pray that God would reveal anything that has become more important than His Kingdom.
- Pray for fresh filling with the Holy Spirit, giving each person courage, wisdom and opportunities to be faithful witnesses for Jesus this week.



**JUL
12**

GROWING THROUGH UNITY

ACTS 4:32–37

Watch the sermon here!

Read: Acts 4:32–37 →



Invitation:

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to speak)

The early church was described as being “one in heart and mind,” sharing what they had so that no one was in need.

Discussion Questions

- What stands out to you most about the way the early believers lived together?
- What images or feelings come to mind when you think about this kind of unity?
- As you reflect on this passage, what might the Holy Spirit be drawing your attention to?

Conviction:

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to bring awareness and change)
Unity is not automatic—it must be pursued—and that both unity and generosity reveal what holds our hearts.

Discussion Questions:

- Are there any areas where you’ve found it difficult to pursue unity (e.g. unforgiveness, pride, hurt, expectations of others)?
- Do you tend to view church more as a community to contribute to, or a place to receive from?
- When it comes to your resources (time, money, energy), what do your habits reveal about what matters most to you?
- Is there anything you’re holding onto tightly that may be competing with Jesus for your heart?

Watch the sermon here!



Surrender:

(Laying down our lives before Jesus)

Unity requires humility, forgiveness, and a willingness to work through imperfection.

Generosity requires open hands and trust in God.

Discussion Questions:

- Is there a relationship or situation where you need to take a step toward forgiveness, humility, or reconciliation?
- What would it look like for you to actively “fight for unity” in your community this week?
- Is God prompting you to release something—your time, resources, comfort, or control—for His purposes?
- What is one practical way you can open your hands to God and others this week?

Belief:

(Embracing truth and living as disciples)

When Jesus has our hearts, unity and generosity become a natural overflow—and our lives point others to Him.

Discussion Questions:

- What truth from this passage do you need to hold onto this week?
- How does understanding that we are all “unfinished people” shape the way you relate to others?
- How does trusting God with what you have change the way you live and give?
- What is one step of faith you can take this week to live more united and open-hearted toward others?

Prayer:

Spend some time praying together.

Watch the sermon here!



Read: Acts 5:1-11

Invitation

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to speak)

- Ps Tim contrasted Ananias and Sapphira with Barnabas. What differences do you notice between their hearts and motivations?
- Why do you think this story feels so confronting? What stood out to you most from the sermon or the passage?

Conviction

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to bring awareness and change)

- Ps Tim suggested the real issue wasn't money but pretending to be someone they weren't. In what subtle ways are we tempted to care more about what others think than what God sees?
- Read **1 Samuel 16:7** ("People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."). Are there any areas where your public faith and private heart are out of alignment?
- The sermon warned against comparison and "Christian masks." Have you ever found yourself comparing your faith, ministry, generosity, or spirituality with someone else's? What effect did that have on your heart?

Surrender

(Laying our lives before Jesus)

- Read **Psalms 139:23-24**. What would it look like to genuinely invite God to search your heart this week?
- Ps Tim said, "Pretending to be who we are not is far more offensive to God than honestly admitting who we really are." What is one area where God may be inviting you to greater honesty, humility, or repentance?
- How can our Life Group become a place where people feel safe to be authentic rather than feeling pressure to appear as though they have it all together?

Belief

(Embracing truth and living as disciples)

- Ps Tim finished by speaking about the fear of the Lord—not as terror, but as reverent awe that leads us closer to God. How does a healthy fear of God deepen our love, trust, and joy in Him?
- Read **John 4:23–24**. What does it mean to worship God "in Spirit and in truth"? How can we grow into the kind of disciples who value God's approval above people's praise?
- Where is God inviting you this week to live more authentically as one of His "called out ones" (ekklesia)?

Prayer

Spend time praying Psalm **139:23–24** together.

Ask the Holy Spirit to:

- Search your hearts and reveal any hidden motives or areas of hypocrisy.
- Grow in you a healthy fear of the Lord that leads to joy, humility, and wholehearted worship.
- Help you live authentically before God, seeking His approval above the approval of people.
- Make Clayton Church a community marked by integrity, grace, and wholehearted devotion to Jesus.

Watch the sermon here!



Read: Psalm 139

Invitation

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to speak)

"Search me, O God, and know my heart... lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:23–24)

- What part of Psalm 139 or Sunday's message stood out to you the most? Why do you think it caught your attention?
- Which description of God in Psalm 139 (His knowledge, presence, care, or power) brings you the greatest comfort? Which one do you find most challenging?
- David begins and ends this psalm by inviting God to search him. How comfortable are you with praying that kind of prayer? Why?

Conviction

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to bring awareness and change)

- Ps Tim reminded us that God is more interested in who we are beneath the surface than the image we present to others. Are there any areas of your heart where you sense God inviting honesty, repentance, or healing?
- David asks God to search not only his actions but also his motives and anxious thoughts. Are there fears, insecurities, comparisons, or hidden struggles that may be shaping your decisions more than you realise?
- In what ways can outward Christian activity sometimes hide areas of our hearts that still need God's transforming work?

Watch the sermon here!



Surrender

(Laying our lives before Jesus)

- David doesn't simply ask God to reveal his heart—he asks God to lead him. What is one area of your life that you need to intentionally surrender to Jesus this week?
- Ps Tim compared God's work in our lives to restoring a treasured car—carefully exposing, repairing and renewing every part. Is there an area where you've been resisting God's restoration? What would it look like to trust Him with it?
- Spend a few moments quietly praying Psalm 139:23–24 together. Invite God to reveal anything He wants to transform, and if appropriate, share what He places on your heart.

Belief

(Embracing truth and living as disciples)

- What truth from Psalm 139 do you want to intentionally hold onto this week?
- How does knowing that you are fully known, deeply loved, and continually pursued by God change the way you approach discipleship?
- As followers of Jesus, how can we cultivate lives that value God's approval more than people's opinions, allowing Him to continually renovate our hearts?

Prayer

Pray for one another, asking God to give each person the courage to pray David's prayer: "Search me, O God, and know my heart." Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything that needs surrender, to deepen your love for Jesus, and to continue transforming you into His likeness as you walk with Him.

Watch the sermon here!



Read: Acts 6:1-7

Invitation

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to speak)

Growth often brings both blessing and complexity. The early church didn't avoid challenges—they responded to them in ways that strengthened both their community and their mission.

- What stood out to you most from Shamilla's message?
- Have you ever experienced a season where growth (in your family, work, ministry or faith) also brought unexpected challenges?
- Why do you think Luke includes this story in the middle of the exciting growth of the early church?

Conviction

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to bring awareness and change)

The early church responded to challenges by remaining rooted in Jesus, caring for people, and inviting every believer to participate in God's mission.

- Shamilla reminded us that "activity does not always equal transformation." Are you currently serving from a place of abiding in Jesus, or has busyness begun to crowd out your relationship with Him?
- Is there someone in your life—at church, home, work, or in your community—who God may be inviting you to notice, encourage, or care for this week?
- What gift, opportunity, or area of service might God be calling you to step into, even if it feels outside your comfort zone?
- Which of these three areas—remaining with Jesus, seeing people, or joining God's mission—is the Holy Spirit challenging you about most today?

Surrender

(Laying our lives before Jesus)

Acts 6 reminds us that healthy churches are built by ordinary people who remain with Jesus, love others well, and faithfully play their part in God's mission.

- Which of these three areas is God highlighting for you today? – Remaining with Jesus, Seeing and loving people, Joining His mission
- What is one practical step of obedience God may be inviting you to take this week?
- Is there an area of your life that you need to surrender again to Jesus rather than trying to control yourself?

Belief

(Embracing Truth and Living as Disciples)

Healthy churches don't grow because they have no problems—they grow because God's people remain faithful through challenges.

- Read together John 15:5 and Acts 6:7
- Which truth from today's message do you most need to hold onto this week?
- How does abiding in Christ change the way we respond to pressure, conflict and responsibility?
- What encouragement can we give one another as we seek to remain with Jesus and join Him in His mission?

Pray that God would:

- deepen your daily dependence on Jesus through prayer and His Word;
- open your eyes to people who may be overlooked or hurting;
- give courage to take the next step of obedience, whatever He is calling you to;
- continue to grow Clayton Church into a community that remains with Jesus, loves people well, and faithfully joins Him in His mission.

Watch the sermon here!



Invitation

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to speak)

Read Acts 6:8-15, 7:51-53

- What stood out to you most from Stephen's response to confrontation?
- As you reflect on the passage, what might the Holy Spirit be drawing your attention to?

Conviction

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to bring awareness and change)

- When God confronts you, do you tend to receive His correction like David, or resist and justify yourself like the Sanhedrin?
- Where might pride, self-protection, or the desire to be "right" be making it difficult for you to hear God?
- Is there an area where you are more concerned about your comfort, reputation, or control than faithfully following Jesus?
- What is God confronting you with or inviting you to change?

Surrender

(Laying our lives before Jesus)

- What do you need to surrender to Jesus rather than trying to control, justify, or fix yourself?
- What would it look like to honestly pray, "I have sinned against the Lord", and allow Jesus to work in that area?
- What would it look like to surrender your reputation, comfort, or desire for control so that Jesus can lead you?

Belief

(Embracing truth and living as disciples)

- Jesus—not Stephen, and not us—is the true hero of the story. How does this truth change the way you view your weaknesses and failures?
- What would it look like this week to rely less on your own wisdom and come to Jesus, listen to Him, and trust His leading?
- What is one step of faithful obedience Jesus may be asking you to take?

Prayer

- Take a few moments to be still before God. Invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart
- Pray together:

“Jesus, You are the true hero of my story.
Search my heart and show me where I am resisting You.
Give me humility to receive Your correction,
courage to stand faithfully for You,
and a soft heart that is willing to obey.

Where I have been proud, help me surrender.
Where I have been self-protective, help me trust You.
Where I have been comfortable, give me courage to follow You.

Holy Spirit, give me Your wisdom and strength
to live faithfully for Jesus this week.
Help me not simply to hear Your Word,
but to respond and be changed by it.

In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Watch the sermon here!



Read: Acts 7:54-60

Invitation

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to speak)

- What stands out to you most about Stephen's response as he faces suffering and death?
- The sermon began by asking, "What comes out of you when you are under pressure?" What do you notice tends to come out of you during times of stress, conflict, or hurt?
- Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit and saw Jesus with him. Where do you need to become more aware of Jesus' presence in your current circumstances?
- Take a moment of quiet. What might the Holy Spirit be gently inviting you to bring before Jesus today?

Conviction

(Allowing the Holy Spirit to bring awareness and change)

- Is there an area of your life where following Jesus feels costly or uncomfortable right now? What makes it difficult to obey Him?
- Is there hurt, anger, bitterness, or unforgiveness that you may still be carrying?
- The sermon reminds us that forgiveness does not mean saying what happened was okay, minimising the hurt, or returning to an unsafe situation. What makes forgiveness particularly difficult for you?
- Is there a person, situation, or area of your heart that you sense Jesus is bringing to your attention today?

Surrender

(Laying our lives before Jesus)

- Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” (Acts 7:59). What would it look like for you to entrust this difficult situation—or your whole life—more fully to Jesus?
- Stephen then prayed, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them” (Acts 7:60). What might it look like to release your desire for revenge, repayment, or control and place the person who hurt you into God's hands?
- What is one practical step of obedience or surrender you sense Jesus asking you to take this week?

Belief

(Embracing Truth and Living as Disciples)

- What does this passage teach us about who Jesus is and how He meets us in times of suffering and pressure?
- How does remembering that we have been forgiven by Jesus shape the way we approach forgiving others? (Ephesians 4:31–32)
- Stephen could forgive not simply through human strength, but because he was filled with the Holy Spirit. How can we depend more on God's power rather than trying to follow Jesus in our own strength this week?
- What would it look like for faith, love, peace, and forgiveness to increasingly be what comes out of us when life puts us under pressure?

Prayer

- Take some time to respond to God together. Create space for silence, and invite the Holy Spirit to gently reveal anything He wants each person to surrender.
- Pray in pairs or small groups, asking the Holy Spirit to give each person the grace to surrender whatever they are carrying and the power to follow Jesus, forgive others and walk in His freedom.