

## Series: Centrifugal Faith

### Scripture and Background Information for October 04-10.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we are continuing our series through the book of Acts. Luke, the physician, writes his account, telling Theophilus the story of how Jesus and His gospel started to spread out from Jerusalem, over Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. He writes about how the church began to form, how church structure was implemented, and how believers' lives were changed through the power of Christ's message.

#### **Background for Acts 6:8-15:**

After the church enjoyed religious freedom at its beginning, the church quickly started to face serious opposition. Nevertheless, Christ continued his work, and the church began to grow. Thus, the leaders of the church needed help. Deacons were placed in office, who helped to manage the social activities of the church. Stephen was one of them. Besides serving as a deacon, Steven also served in the proclamation of the gospel. His evangelistic activities brought attention to Jewish leaders, who captured and placed him before a Jewish court. Here, the leaders called false witnesses to testify against Steven, which finally brought him to death (7:54-60).

Some questions to engage with the text:

1. Why did the leaders had to call for false witnesses in the trial against Steven?
2. Although facing false accusations, how did Steven react to his opponents?
3. Did the oppositions Steven faced keep him from testifying about Christ?
4. Which effect did Steven's situation have on the church? How did that influence the gospel ministry? Is opposition always bad?

*Notice, Jesus told his disciples that they would be his witnesses; he also promised them that the Spirit of God would help them to defend their faith when facing opposition (Lk 12:12). How does that motivate you for the gospel ministry?*

#### **Scriptures for upcoming weeks:**

October 11-17	Acts 8
October 18-24	Acts 9