SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 6

Seven Men and a Face Like an Angel

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 6:4

"But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 6

Acts 6 begins with a quarrel over who got fed and ends with a servant whose face shone like an angel's. This week God wants to settle the quiet grumbling in you, fill you with His Spirit for ordinary work, and let His glory show on your face when people misunderstand you.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Overlooked

READ · ACTS 6:1–2

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What was happening to the number of disciples, who complained, and who was being overlooked (6:1)?

REFLECT

The Hellenistic widows were overlooked in the daily serving of food (6:1). When have you felt overlooked, and what did you do with that feeling?

REFLECT

The trouble came while the church was growing (6:1). Why do you think success often brings friction, in a family, a job or a group of men?

RESPOND — TODAY

Notice one person today who is easy to miss — at work, in the unit, at church — and do one small, concrete thing for him or her.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 6:4)

DAY 2 OF 5

First Things First

READ · ACTS 6:3–4

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What three things were the seven men to be known for, and what two things did the apostles say they would devote themselves to (6:3–4)?

REFLECT

The apostles said, "we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (6:4). What crowds out prayer and God's Word in your days, and what would it take to put them first?

REFLECT

The men chosen to serve food had to be "full of the Spirit and of wisdom" (6:3). Do you treat your everyday work as something the Holy Spirit cares about? Why or why not?

RESPOND — TODAY

Before you do anything else tomorrow morning, spend ten minutes in prayer and in one passage of Scripture.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 6:4)

DAY 3 OF 5

The Word Kept Spreading

READ · ACTS 6:5–7

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who were the seven men chosen, what did the apostles do for them, and what happened to the word of God and to the priests (6:5–7)?

REFLECT

All seven names are Greek — the church gave the job to men from the group that had been hurt (6:5). What would it look like for you to make things right with someone you have hurt, instead of just explaining yourself?

REFLECT

“A great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith” (6:7) — men from the very group that condemned Jesus. Who have you written off as too far from God, and how might you pray for him?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray by name for one person you think is “least likely” to come to Christ, and ask God to make His word spread to him.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 6:4)

DAY 4 OF 5

Full of Grace and Power

READ · ACTS 6:8–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What was Stephen full of, what was he doing, and why could his opponents not cope with him (6:8–10)?

REFLECT

Stephen started at the tables and ended up doing "great wonders and signs" (6:8). What small job has God given you that you have been tempted to look down on?

REFLECT

His opponents "were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking" (6:10). When you talk about Jesus, are you leaning on your own arguments or on His Spirit?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you for one conversation today, and then speak honestly about Jesus when the door opens.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 6:4)

DAY 5 OF 5

A Face Like an Angel

READ · ACTS 6:11–15

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the men who were secretly induced say about Stephen, where did they bring him, and what did the Council see (6:11–15)?

REFLECT

Stephen was lied about, just as Jesus had been (6:11–14). How do you usually react when someone misrepresents you — and how might Jesus want you to react?

REFLECT

The Council "saw his face like the face of an angel" (6:15). What would people see on your face this week if they watched you under pressure?

RESPOND — TODAY

Spend unhurried time with God today — read, pray, be quiet — and ask Him to let others see Him in you, not your anger.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 6:4)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The apostles solved the widows' problem quickly and humbly (6:2–6). If a complaint arose in our group, what would a Christlike way of handling it look like?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Prayer and the word came first for the apostles (6:4). How can we help one another keep those first in a week full of other demands?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Stephen was falsely accused yet his face shone (6:13–15). Share a time you were misunderstood for doing right. How did God meet you there?

MY PRAYER

Lord, You see the ones I overlook and the grumbling I keep hidden, so fill me with Your Spirit today and help me to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 6:4

"But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."