

March 1st, 2026

Sermon: Acts: A Church Is Born | Stephen

Main text: Acts 7

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION REFLECTIONS & QUESTIONS...

Key Reflections/Quotes:

“Pressure reveals what fills us.

When Stephen was squeezed, the Spirit came out.

When the Sanhedrin were squeezed, resistance came out.”

Evidence of Being Filled with the Spirit (Stephen)

When squeezed, Stephen demonstrates:

• Power for Ministry

- Acts 6:8 – Performed wonders and signs.

• Boldness

- Courageously proclaimed Jesus (Acts 7).
- Lived out answered prayer from Acts 4.

• Wisdom

- Acts 6:10 – Spirit-given wisdom.

• Love for Enemies

- Acts 7:59–60 – Prays for his killers.
- Mirrors Jesus’ words in Luke 23:34, 46.

• Personal Transformation

- Acts 6:15 – Face like an angel.
- Acts 7:55–56 – Focused on Jesus.
- He sounded like Jesus, prayed like Jesus, acted like Jesus.

“Stephen was surrendered to Jesus.”

“When the squeeze happens... what’s the filling that comes out?”

“Stephen’s filling could be summarized as surrendered to Jesus. The religious leaders could be summarized as resistant to Jesus.”

“The filling in our lives is often a mix of the water (the Spirit) and rocks (things not of the Spirit). When the squeeze happens—is it water or rocks spilling out?”

Key Questions...

1). When life squeezes you (stress, conflict, suffering), what typically comes out of you?

2). **Where might you be resisting the Holy Spirit right now?**

(a) Is there a step of obedience you’ve been avoiding?

3). **What “rock” in your life is taking up space that belongs to the Spirit?**

(b) Time? Comfort? Pride? Control? Bitterness?

4). **What does surrender to Jesus practically look like in your current season?**

(c) What would it mean to fix your gaze on Jesus like Stephen did?

5). **How does Stephen’s forgiveness challenge your response to conflict or criticism?** (d) Who might God be inviting you to forgive or pray for?

