

Prepared by Pastor Heike based on the Lutheran Study Bible

Chapter 6

Seven Chosen to Serve (V. 1-7)

- A conflict well solved – how can this scene work as an example for us today to solve conflicts within the congregation?

The Arrest of Stephen (V. 8-15)

- Compare with Matthew 26:59-66). Describe the similarities to Jesus' arrest and trial before the Sanhedrin.

Chapter 7

Stephen's Speech to the Council (V. 1-53)

- What is the intention of Stephen's speech? What does he want to prove?

The Stoning of Stephen (V. 54-60)

- Compare with Luke 23:34, 46.

Chapter 8

Saul Persecutes the Church (V. 1-3)

- Saul (later Paul) is introduced here for the first time as persecutor of the followers of Jesus Christ. Why do you think God chose him as the central figure for his mission?

Philip Preaches in Samaria (V. 4-25)

- Can you buy God's healing power? How do you receive it? And what does imply the action of 'laying on of hands'? Have you ever experienced the 'laying on of hands' personally? If yes, what does it mean to you?

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (V. 26-40)

- When you find yourself all of a sudden on a desert road and are supposed to preach the Good News, what would you talk about?

Chapter 9

The Conversion of Saul (V. 1-19a)

- How do you live out your calling to follow Jesus in your home, workplace and neighborhood?

Saul preaches in Damascus (V. 19b-22)

- The change from Saul to Paul is dramatic. Have you ever encountered someone who became a firm believer after being an atheist or non-believer? If yes, can you explain what changed them?

Saul Escapes from the Jews (V. 23-25) and Saul in Jerusalem (V. 26-31)

- Many have a hard time to believe in the radical change of Saul into Paul. Do you find it hard, too when someone changes his/her views so radical? Would you trust or would you still have questions?

The Healing of Aeneas (V. 32-35) and Peter in Lydda and Joppa (V. 36-43)

- Compare with Luke 8:51-55). The raising of Dorca/Tabitha is reminiscent of Jesus raising Jairus' daughter. But what is Peter doing differently here than Jesus? Do you think this detail is important? If, yes, why?

Chapter 10

Peter and Cornelius (V. 1-33)/Gentiles Hear the Good News (V. 34-43)/Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit (V. 44-48)

- What is the essential and groundbreaking message in these texts?

Chapter 11

Peter's Report to the Church at Jerusalem (V. 1-18)

- Peter gets questioned about his practice to eat with Gentiles by the apostles. In Verse 17 he says: Who was I that I could hinder God? I think that's a great question. Have you experienced situations in your life or at church where you had the feeling something/someone tries to hinder God?

The Church in Antioch (V. 19-30)

- In Verse 26 the term 'Christians' is used for the first time to describe believers in Jesus Christ. It is not clear whether the name was first used by the enemies of the church or by the believers themselves. What does it mean to you to be called a Christian?