

ICB COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY

WHAT WE DO: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

The message last Sunday, continued our series "What We Do". Pastor Brent shared about the story of Stephen and his example of a servant, what effect that had on those around him and on the Kingdom of God!

START

Can you think of an example of someone who is a great servant, and does not look for glory or fame from what they do, but just gets on with it? What makes them so special? Which attributes that you see in them, would you like to have more of yourself?

SHARE

READ ACTS 6

- What were the characteristics of those chosen to serve food? What do these character traits have to do with their job? What can we take from this for our own lives?
- What words would you use to describe Stephen?
- Compare the way Stephen's opponents handled the "problem" that they had (Stephen's powerful preaching) with the way the believers in verses 1-8 handled the problem of food distribution.
- Why do you think the activities of Stephen and the church aroused opposition? What led Stephen's opponents to resort to deception?
- Why do you think Luke mentions in verse 15 that Stephen's face was "like the face of an angel"? What effect do you think that had on those around him?

READ COLOSSIANS 3:23-24 and EPHESIANS 6:7

- In these passages Paul continues the challenge from Stephen and calls us to work at **WHATEVER** we are doing as if it's for God. How would your life change if you put these verses into practice?

GROW

- Why is our attitude so important? How does it affect those around us?
- What can we learn from Stephen's attitudes throughout this whole passage? In what areas of your life do you need to ask God to help you with your attitude?
- Is there anything that holds you back from stepping out and serving others?

- What needs do you see around you, that you could help with (at work, at home, in our daily routine, in church)?

PRAY

The need arose in the early church, to help others in a very practical way and God is calling us to do the same. Ask God to show you where He needs you to serve, pray He would open your eyes to the needs around you and give you a willing heart to step up and take on the challenge.

GO

God can use you anywhere He takes you, in small and big tasks. Nothing is too trivial for Him, not even cleaning toilets or taking out the rubbish! Be encouraged that even the smallest job, with the right attitude, can make a great difference for the Kingdom of God. All we need to do is have a willing heart, and He will do the rest! As you go into this week find someone (or something) you can help and see what a difference it makes!

Read more about the story of Stephen in Acts 6, read more about attitudes towards serving and living for Christ in Colossians 3 and Ephesians 6:5-9.