

Fearless Acts - Relationships

Jonathan Cleveland

Acts 6:1-7

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

The first believers were incredibly brave as they engaged their world

As a group – modern Christians have sometimes struggled with disagreement.

*How does having power and control affect how people engage disagreements?

Disputes are unavoidable for God's people

What we do in those moments put us on a path towards bravery or fear.

*What is the difference between agreement and unity?

*How have you seen the church or yourself 'worship' agreement?

Read and discuss Acts 6:1-7 (NIV)

¹In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews^[a] among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ²So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

*What is this passage saying to you?

*How do you see God's people handling this dispute?

Staying connected to each other in conflict makes us brave IF we lean in

We have to learn to be slow to opt out when relationships struggle.

*How can conflicted relationships result in growth and transformation?

*What does disagreeing in love look like?

Pulpit Rock is a church of mixed belief, but united on one issue

Acts 2:36 (NIV) ³⁶*God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”*

When you are frustrated with someone ... you kindly address it.

When you think someone may be frustrated with you ... you kindly pursue them.

When you are 'stuck' in a dispute in a relationship ... you ask for help from wise people.

*How does navigating with these responses cultivate bravery in us?

*Do you sense God asking you to lean in in one of these ways?