Leaders: The following represents 3 sets of crisis and faithfulness – The apostles before the Sanhedrin for preaching the Good news about Jesus, the neglect of the Greek Jewish widows, and the unjustified arrest and stoning of Stephen. But, in each of these cases, the Spirit works through the early church to do great things: the spreading of the Gospel, the belief of many of the priests from the Temple, and the spreading of the Gospel into Judea and Samaria (fulfilling the Great Commission, but happening through a time of immense hardship.)

Begin with an icebreaker question.

Read Acts 5:27 – 6:12 These verses begin and end in the middle of stories, so the leader should read the whole stories to refamiliarize themselves.

1. In these verses, we see 3 repetitions of Crisis and Faithfulness. For each one of these crises, what is the crisis?
2. And for each crisis, how is the church’s faithfulness shown?
3. Focusing on the feeding of widows, what are the required attributes for the disciples who will serve? (it is interesting that attributes like good cook or good administrator aren’t the first attributes of importance – why is that?)
4. How did the proposed solution address the crisis?
5. What were the results of the solution? (Note that the obvious answer is the adding of priests which can’t have made the Jewish leadership very happy. However, Stephen is named a deacon here and the final result is the stoning of Stephen (end of chapter 7) and the dispersion of the disciples to Judea and Samaria [beginning of chapter 8])
6. Why do you think that this solution had such powerful and dramatic results?

Pastor Christian said in the sermon, that the early church, in their Jesus DNA, was able to trust in the moment, and the ways we do ministry, and to adapt and to help people in need.

1. Today, Christian asked 3 questions, and I’d like for us to think about them some.
   1. What are other good questions that this crisis raises for the church?
   2. What are the hurdles facing our community that if addressed well, might be a good testimony and open new doors?
   3. What are you called to be part of or not?