

CONVERSATION STARTERS

SOUTHRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

January 5, 2025 | Acts: The Story of...

EAT TOGETHER | *Showing up regularly to share life and build relationships*

1. Join us for one of our *New Year Family Meetings* for an evening of missional and organizational updates as well as some space for questions and conversation as a church family. January 8th at 7:00pm in St. Catharines. January 14th at 7:00pm in Welland. January 15th at 7:00pm in Vineland.
2. What were you most grateful for in 2024? What are you most hopeful for in 2025?
3. What's your favourite story from a book or movie? What's a story that intrigued you but troubled you?

PRAY TOGETHER | *Joining in on conversations of life and faith*

1. What stood out to you in [this week's service](#)? Was there a song that spoke to you? Was there a moment when you sensed God's presence? Did you meet someone new? What did you learn?
2. Read [Acts 6:11-14](#). The religious leaders in this story were accusing Stephen of disrespecting the temple, the law, and the customs of Moses. What customs, traditions, or "sacred cows" do Christians seem to hold today that could get in the way of Jesus' message of grace and love?
3. Read [Acts 7:54-58](#). The religious leaders stoned Stephen to death for his faith in Jesus. In [Luke 21:12-17](#), Jesus warned his disciples that they would be persecuted because of him. In our place and time, we don't often experience persecution. What might that tell us about our faith or devotion to Jesus?

LOVE TOGETHER | *Being real to care and make a difference*

1. Stephen's incredible act of forgiveness in [Acts 7:59-60](#) was possible because he was filled with the Holy Spirit. What do you think about that? What can this teach us about the Spirit's activity in our lives? Where might you need to grow in extending forgiveness?
2. Are there any "sacred cows" in your life that you need to hold more loosely? What might the Holy Spirit be saying to you through this story?
3. Jesus condensed the entire Law down to "[loving God and loving your neighbour.](#)" Are there any religious rules or traditions in your life getting in the way of living out Jesus' law of love?