



Read this week's scripture and answer the questions below. As you read, consider how these verses fit into what you are seeing or experiencing today. Prepare to share with your small group anything that jumped out at you, confused you, encouraged you, challenged or convicted you.

1. Start with Acts 7 verse 1. The High Priest, most likely Caiaphas, the same High priest who presided over Jesus' trial question Stephen. Consider what it took to for Stephen to stand in that moment. Are you ready and willing to offer a testimony of the gospel? Bring your honest answer to the Lord in prayer today. Know that he will meet you right where you are at and lead you to the place you are going.
2. Read verses 2-8. Here Stephen recounts God's call and faithfulness to Abram who he would rename Abraham. Think of the faith Abraham must have had to lean into promises yet unseen. Is God calling you to trust in Him in the midst of unknowns? Let this thought lead you into prayer this day; ask for increased faith and increased effectiveness.
3. Read Acts 9-16. Consider God's faithfulness to and through Joseph. Consider God's character in combination with Joseph's circumstances. We will walk through trials, but we can be assured that God walks with us. Turn this thought into praise today. Turn this thought into a plea today. Know that God is a very present help in times of trouble.
4. Read the story of Moses in verses 17-50. See the faithfulness of God set alongside the stubbornness of his people. We are all stubborn. Let this hard truth lead us to confession today. Let confession lead to repentance. Let repentance lead to new life.
5. Read verses 51-53. Here Stephen lays the hammer. Those who have always rejected God's messengers have now rejected his Son. It's easy to point a finger at the religious folk of Stephen's day, but we reject Jesus each time we choose our will over his. Let us humbly consider the plank in our own eye and pray for those with a speck in their own.
6. Read verses 54-58. Stephen's witness cost him his life. Let this sober picture of discipleship sink in. As we follow after Jesus, let us pray for the wisdom and the courage that will be required as lean in.
7. Read verses 59-60. Turn over to Luke 23:24. Stephen isn't a superhero. He is a man who has aligned his life with the life of Jesus and who has purposed to walk in the power of the spirit. Sit with Stephen's example. Pray for power.

Notes/Prayer Request

Acts 7:38

Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses
made by hands, as the prophet says...