

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## Acts Series

These questions are for the **January 26, 2020** sermon, "Stephen: the First Martyr." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 6:8-7:60) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

AS BODILY DANGER INCREASES IN PROCLAIMING JESUS CHRIST IS LORD . . .

1. Do not fear legal action (6:6-7:1)
  - a. Preparation (Acts 6:3, 10—Stephen is full of wisdom and the Spirit)
    - i. Know what the Scriptures teach about the Righteous One
    - ii. In order to stand with confidence whether you live or die.
  - b. Prayer (Acts 4:28-29) [Prayed for boldness, not comfort; Prayed together, for one another.]
  - c. exPect Persecution (Luke 21:12-15) The followers of Jesus will not avoid persecution.
2. Begin with the things you have in common with your hearers (7:2-50)
  - a. This God of glory has always been a worldwide God, intending to reach all nations through Israel. (1-16) "Our fathers misunderstood this. So did we!"
  - b. God sent us faithful servants to lead us out of slavery, but we rejected those prophets and servants of the LORD. (17-34)
  - c. God gave us the Law, revealing himself to us, but we rejected him and immediately turned to idols made with human hands. (35-50)
  - d. BOTTOM LINE: We have not rightly understood God's promises, prophets or Law.
3. Ask God to embolden your witness about Jesus (51-60)
  - a. Jesus IS our inheritance, the only Righteous One from God. Do not reject him!
  - b. Jesus, the ultimate Temple, the ultimate Sacrifice and the ultimate Priest has indeed come to supersede the temple (in Jerusalem) as our ultimate place of worship.
  - c. Jesus is the "Son of Man" (Daniel 7:13-14). All the peoples of the earth (not just Israel) will worship him alone. Stephen adds, "He is not dead. I see him standing in heaven."

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Of the "three P's" which should diminish our fear of legal action, which is your weakness? Which is your strength? How might you work on your weakness?
2. Based on #2, above: All of us should be able to speak in plain language about the unique identity of Jesus Christ. We should be able to take a question (Acts 7:1) and provide confident (but humble) reasons why Jesus is the only "Righteous One" from God. In what ways are you getting better at this? Do you know the Scriptures? Are you ready to risk?
3. Based on #2, above: Stephen identifies with his hearers for a most of his speech. From 7:2-7:50 he lumps himself in with the Sanhedrin and the fathers as people who missed the point of the prophets and promises. How can you get better at identifying with your listeners?
4. Based on #3, above: All of Stephen's listeners would have understood what he meant when he said that Jesus is the "Son of Man" (Dan 7:14) and also "standing" (alive) in heaven. Just like their fathers, the Sanhedrin had killed the One sent to save them. Are you ready to risk comfort, life, limb and relationships to boldly and clearly proclaim that Jesus is the only name by which we must be saved? (Acts 4:12)