



## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

ACTS 6:8-15, 7 / October 21

Welcome! Thank you for joining us in studying through Acts! Today's study is from Acts 7. We will begin by studying the longest speech recorded in Acts by a disciple named Stephen, the first martyr recorded in the New Testament, and how his death points us to Jesus.

**Review:** What happened in chapter 6, and how do the events of that chapter connect to Stephen?

**At the beginning of chapter 6, seven men were chosen by the church to serve the church as deacons. Stephen was one of the men chosen.**

**Begin by reading Acts 6:8-15** What sort of person is Stephen, based on these verses? Make a list of the qualities that he has. What was the grace and power that Stephen was full of and why do you think that?

-Why are the people mentioned in verse 9 mad? What is their response to Stephen when they can't keep him from preaching about Jesus?

-Has someone ever given false witness about you? What was your response?

**Stephen responds to the false accusations against him with a sermon! He says (verse 1), "Brothers and fathers, hear me," and then continues for about 50 more verses!**

-How do you think Stephen is able to stay calm and not back down on the message he wants to convey?

**Look through Acts 7:1-53.** What names and events do you recognize from this speech?

-What is the point of Stephen recapping these points from the Old Testament? How is this still relevant for us today? What does it tell us about God?

**Stephen reminds them of their shared history of Israel rejecting God and God redeeming them.**

**Read Acts 7:51-53.** What is Stephen's message for these people?

**By the end of the speech, Stephen accuses them of killing Jesus and rejecting God again.**

**Read Acts 7:54-60.**

- How does Stephen respond when faced with death? (*He prays for the people who are hurting him, He trusts that he is safe with Jesus*)

-How is it that Stephen can respond this way? (*Re-read verse 55*)

-How did Stephen know he could trust Jesus with his life? (*He believed in Jesus, he was taught by people that loved and trusted Jesus, and he knew the Scriptures*)

**Even when he was facing death, Stephen trusted Jesus with his life.** He knew that Jesus had died on the cross to give him life — and so for Stephen, Jesus was worth his very life.

–Would it be hard to trust Jesus in the same way that Stephen did?

**Read Matthew 16:24-25.**

– Who is speaking in these verses? What does it practically mean for you to deny yourself? How can you die to yourself every day? What does it mean for you to follow Jesus like Stephen did?

**Pray.**

**Thank God for the book of Acts. Pray that God would teach us to trust Jesus better. Pray that the Gospel would be the most important thing to us and that we would live lives that reflect the work of the Holy Spirit in us. Pray that God would help us daily remember how Jesus died to give us life. Pray that We would deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus daily.**

## KIDS FOCUS

**In today's story, a man named Stephen, a man chosen by God, is doing great signs and wonders among the people. Again, some of the people are jealous and decide to lie about what Stephen is saying. This gets him in big trouble with the leaders. Stephen responds by reminding the people about what God has done.**

Has anyone ever lied about you? How did you feel about that? What did you do?

**Read Acts 7:51-60** What just happened? What does Stephen say they did? How do they respond to what Stephen says?

–How does Stephen respond when things get scary? (*He prays for the people who are hurting him, He trusts that he is safe with Jesus*)

–How is it that Stephen can respond this way? (*Re-read verse 55*)

–How did Stephen know to trust Jesus with his life? (*Because he was taught by people that loved and trusted Jesus, and he knew the Scriptures*)

**Even when he was facing death, Stephen trusted Jesus with his life.** He knew that Jesus had died on the cross to give him life — and so for Stephen, Jesus was worth his very life.

–Can we trust Jesus the same way? What are some things we can do that help us trust Jesus better?