

Acts – 8/9/26

Read

Read Acts 6:8-7:53. Consider reading in the New Living Translation and/or having several people read smaller sections to break up the reading.

Examine

- 6:8 says Stephen was “full of grace and power... doing great wonders and signs among the people.” What does this teach about the Holy Spirit’s role in mission? What does this teach about discipleship?
- What is ironic about the charges against Stephen (6:9-14)? How does this irony shape our understanding of the passage?
- Why does Stephen reference Abraham, Moses, the Exodus, David, and other key figures/events in the Old Testament? How do these references function in his argument? What thread runs through these stories?
- Summarize Stephen’s conclusion in 7:51-53. What is true worship? How does true worship differ from the religious practice of those Stephen spoke to?

Apply

- Stephen used the storyline of the Old Testament to preach about Jesus. Could you explain how the Old Testament culminates in Jesus to a non-Christian or newer Christian? Why or why not? What can you do to increase your familiarity and fluency in the Old Testament?
- What does it look like to stubbornly resist the Holy Spirit today, like the opponents of Stephen? When in your life do you tend to resist God instead of obeying him wholeheartedly? How can you grow in your obedience?
- How can we as a church community best avoid the pitfalls outlined in this passage?
- What does it look like to speak boldly like Stephen, in the face of opposition and persecution?

Pray

Take time to praise God for who He is, confess sins, and/or make requests based on this passage.