

The Story of Stephen

Acts 6:8-7:60

March 21st, 2021

Getting to know you

1. Have you ever been falsely accused of something? How did you handle the situation?

Digging Deeper

Read Acts 6:8-7:19

1. Of what do Stephen's enemies accuse him (6:9-14)?
2. How did Stephen's qualifications for serving the Hellenist widows equip him to face persecution?
3. In Stephen's speech, he takes the time to go through salvation history. He begins with Abraham and God's promises to him (7:2-8). Read Genesis 12:1-3. What are these promises? Considering Acts 3:25-26, how were they fulfilled through Jesus?

Read Acts 7:20-50

4. Stephen tells Israel's history from Abraham, through slavery in Egypt, to Moses (Acts 7:9-19). Considering verses 27, 35, and 39, what point is Stephen making about Moses and his relationship to Israel? How is this relevant to the Jewish leaders' current opposition to Jesus? Considering verse 42, how did God respond to those who rejected Moses?
5. Stephen gives an overview of the presence of God throughout Israel's salvation history. He moves from God's presence in the tabernacle, to the temple, to a quote from Isaiah 66:1-2. What is his point about God's presence? Remembering the accusations against Stephen in Acts 6:13-14, what indictment against the Jewish leaders is he implying?

Read Acts 7:51-53

6. Stephen concludes with a direct, sharp attack on the religious leaders. Of what four things did Stephen say his accusers were guilty?

Read Acts 7:54-60

7. What two prayers did Stephen pray as he was being stoned to death? What two prayers did Jesus pray at his death?

Take Home

1. What will equip you to face distorted accusations? Explain.

Prayer

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