

ACTS – Stephen
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Acts 7
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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Hard things can be God things

God can transform the hard things in our lives.

- *How have you seen this in the early church in Acts so far?
- *Are there places of pain, struggle or sorrows that God has transformed in your life?
- *The word 'can' is important – what distinction does this it make?

Stephen accuses his accusers

Review Acts 7:2-53

- *What were some of the points of Stephen's sermon?
- *Why does he retell the Old Testament story? What does he say about the focus of the hearer's spirituality?

What will you become if you really follow Jesus

Read and discuss Acts 7:54-8:4(NIV)

*⁵⁴ When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. **8** And Saul approved of their killing him. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. ² Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. ³ But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. ⁴ Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.*

- *What does this passage tell us about God? About people?
- *What do you see about the way God uses this hard thing?
- *Why do you think the people of God didn't get stuck after this? What can we learn from them?

We are defined by our identity in Christ not our pain

We walk with the risen Jesus-but we don't forget the crucified Jesus.

- *Are you stuck in your pain somewhere? Have you let some pain define you?
- *What hard thing does He want to redeem? Is the Holy Spirit speaking to you in some way?