

Stephen: Acts 6-7

11.8.15

Reminders

Next Steps Class - For those interested in learning more about Exodus and pursuing membership, Next Steps is coming up on Sunday, November 22, 2015 from 5-7pm in the Overflow Space. You can register on the website or on The City.

Acts Devotion Guide. Talk about the Guide. Are you using the Guide? Encourage using it.

Remember

Talk as a group about your plans for the next few weeks. What will you do during Thanksgiving week? During December?

Read Acts 6:8-15, 7:54-60

What are some things that stand out to you from the passage? From what you heard on Sunday?

Deepen

What are some things that stand out to you about Stephen's Character in Acts 6:8-15?

How do you need to grow in these areas?

Read 2 Peter 1:3-11

What are some character traits in this passage that you need to and want to see more of in your life?

What is the hope given to us in v. 3-4?

All of Stephen's ministry and character finds root in his being dependent on the Spirit of God. Why must we remember this? How can we help one another remember this?

Stephen's Response to his accusers is lengthy. Talk through each section below and make application to our lives.

Answer the questions: How does the person exhibit faith? How does God show himself faithful?

- Abraham - Acts 7:1-8
- Joseph - Acts 7:9-17
- Moses - Acts 7:18-40
- Prophets - 7:41-47

Transform

Stephen brings a great deal of conviction on his accusers in vv. 51-53. His comments can be summed up as:

- You are rebellious toward God and His Word.
- You killed the prophets and Jesus.
- You don't keep the law you say you love so much.

How do Stephen's comments confront us? How do we need to repent in light of what Stephen is saying?

Luke introduces us to a character here in Stephen's story who will take center stage beginning in Acts 13. How does God's grace toward Saul encourage you to trust God's grace?

The next few weeks in Acts we will see Stephen - first Martyr, Phillip - Gospel goes to Samaria and Africa, Paul is converted and Cornelius - the first non-Jewish Gentile is saved. We are witnessing the continuing fulfillment of Acts 1:8. Today, Exodus gets to participate in that as well. We support church planters and international partners to see Acts 1:8 continue.

Spend some time praying specifically for these people:

North America:

Jeremy Rose --- The Axis Church

Michael Landrum --- The Line Church

Doug Logan --- Epiphany Fellowship of Camden

David Keen --- Exodus Northlake

International:

Bobby & Meredith --- Africa

Brittany --- East Asia

Dave & Gloria --- Redeemer Church of Dubai