

Acts-Week 8 Study Guide
Week of November 24, 2019

Lead in: Share about a time when something tragic occurred that with time brought about positive results.

Have someone read **Acts 6:8-15** then discuss the following:

- What did Stephen do or say that caused to appear and speak before the high priest and the council?
- What do you think it means that Stephen's "...face was like the face of an angel." (verse 15)?
- As you skim the content of Stephen's defense (Acts 7:1-49) how would you summarize what he said to the council? Why do you think he chose to give a general overview of the history of their ancestors?

Have someone read **Acts 7:51-8:1** then discuss the following:

- What did Stephen say that caused his hearers to become so enraged?
- What about Stephen's death reminds you of Jesus' death?
- What impact did Stephen's death have upon the church?
- What individual is a witness of Stephen's death? What does he have in common with Stephen? How is he different?
- What in this account of Stephen was most significant to you? Why?

The couple of thoughts about this passage. What interests many people most about Stephen is that he was the first Christian martyr. Luke's main concern lies elsewhere, however. He emphasizes the vital role Stephen played in the development of the worldwide Christian mission through both his teaching and his death.

Stephen's teaching, misunderstood as "blasphemy" against the temple and the law, was that Jesus (as he himself had claimed) was the fulfillment of both. Already in the Old Testament God was tied to his people, wherever they were, not to buildings. So now Jesus is ready to accompany his people wherever they go. As we see from this point forward in the book of Acts.

