

The Heart of the Matter

12. What lasting effect did Stephen's death eventually have on Saul's life? What effect does this account have on you?

13. God may not call all of us to be martyrs for the sake of the Gospel, but what is He calling you to do? (Romans 12:1-2)

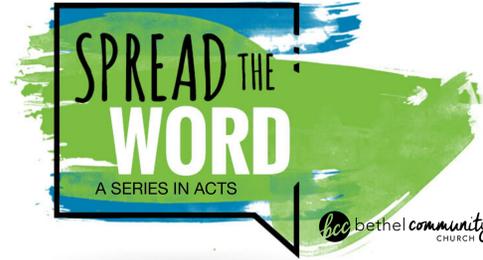
14. Is it harder to live for Jesus than it is to die for Him? How does living for Him prepare us for dying?

15. How did God use Stephen's life and death to further the cause of the Gospel? How is God using you to further the Gospel in your family, your work place, school, or community?

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Life Group Study Guide

The First Martyr Acts 6:8 - 8:3 For the Week of January 20, 2019

Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
2. Are you more likely to rock-the-boat or keep "peace-at-any-price"?
3. What makes a speech or sermon interesting to you?

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BETHEL COMMUNITY CHURCH, CHICAGO, IL
Some questions adapted from: The NIV (c) Serendipity Bible, 1996. Serendipity House. and Bible Study
Fellowship International @ www.bsfiinternational.org

Digging Deeper

4. What kind of a man do you think Stephen was? How did the way the Jewish leaders treated Stephen parallel the way they treated Jesus previously?

5. From Acts 6:13-14, how would you write up the formal charges that were brought against Stephen?

6. Stephen in the longest sermon in the book of Acts reviewed Israel's entire history. Why do you think he needed to do this? What did this show about Israel's relationship with God?

7. What parallels did Stephen make between Moses and Jesus? How does this relate to the charges brought against him in 6:13-14? How does the quote in 7:37 begin to turn the tables on his accusers regarding who is really rejecting Moses?

8. From verses 7:44-50, what is his point about the temple and God's presence? How is he turning the tables on his accusers again?

9. What does Stephen mean by the phrase "uncircumcised hearts and ears" in verse 7:51 (Leviticus 26:40-42)? In this context what is Stephen really saying about the Sanhedrin's regard for Moses and the Law?

10. Of what does Stephen accuse these Jewish leaders in verses 7:51-53? Why were the Jewish leaders cut to the heart with his statements? Why are they so enraged? Who was on trial now?

11. Putting Stephen to death was technically illegal under Jewish law (John 18:31). What does this reveal about the desperation of the Sanhedrin? How was Stephen's death similar to that of Jesus Christ?