

Looking for
helpful
resources as
you study
Acts?



Bible Project



Free Commentary



Free Crossway Study

LET'S CHECK IN:

1. Briefly share: over the last week, what's one way you've noticed God working in your life? Or in the lives of others? In your community? In the world? Or share something that happened in the last week you are grateful for!

LET'S GET STARTED:

2. Icebreaker: How do you often feel when an injustice has happened to you or you've seen it take place in the lives of others, in the community, etc.?

LET'S DIVE IN:

3. First, read together Acts 7. Think back to the sermon. Was there an idea or aspect of the text spoke to you? Was there anything said that challenged, intrigued or confused you that you want to explore more? Listen to each other, but don't feel the need to answer a person's question.
4. Stephen's goal is to refresh his audience of their own salvation history yet doing it in a way to show the connections with how it points to Jesus (typological connections). He begins with Abraham and God's promises to him ([Acts 7:2-8](#)). Read [Genesis 12:1-3](#). What are these promises? Considering [Acts 3:25-26](#), how were they fulfilled through Jesus?
5. After reminding them of their slavery in Egypt he moves to Moses. Read [Acts 7:20-43](#) and then consider [Acts 7:27, 35, 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 [Acts 7:42](#), how did God respond to those who rejected Moses?

6. In [Acts 7:42–50](#) he focuses on God’s presence in the tabernacle then temple and quotes [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?

7. Finally, Stephen concludes with a direct, sharp attack on the religious leaders ([Acts 7:51–53](#)). What does he accuse them of? How does his speech up to this point condemn the leaders? At the beginning of this episode ([Acts 6:10](#)), Stephen’s accusers could not withstand the wisdom of the Spirit, so they falsely accused him. Through it all, how would you characterize Stephen’s response to this injustice?

8. Stephen prayed for two things as he died. The first (“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit;” [Acts 7:59](#)) recalls Jesus’ dying words from the cross ([Luke 23:46](#)), and the second (“Lord, do not hold this sin against them”) recalls Jesus’ earlier prayer for the forgiveness of those responsible for his death ([Luke 23:34](#)). How could Stephen ask God not to “hold this sin against them” ([Acts 7:60](#))?

9. As we consider how to apply the thrust of his message, how can we make a connection with our own attitude toward “holy places”? Can we every fall into a similar form of “place idolatry” in our worship?

LET’S TAKE A NEXT STEP:

10. In light of this study, share and write down one next action step you feel God is leading you to take in the next week?

(Consider areas: a temptation to avoid? Promise to claim? Example to follow? Command to obey? Person to move toward? A new discipline to develop that will help you love God with your heart, soul, mind, strength and to love others?)