

## A Church That SPEAKS

Acts 6:8-7:60

### **Read Acts 6:8-15**

How does the message the Stephen speaks and lives affect those living around him?

**As he stands before the Sanhedrin, Stephen teaches us how to talk about Jesus.**

### **Read Acts 7:1-8**

*God calls man*

How do we learn to listen to God's voice?

### **Read Acts 7:9-19**

*God is with man*

How do we become more aware of God's presence in our lives?

### **Read Acts 7:20-50**

*God provides for man*

How do we embrace God's purpose in our lives?

How can telling the story of God's call, presence, and purpose in your life help someone else to see God?

## A Church That SPEAKS (With Notes)

### Acts 6:8-7:60

#### Read Acts 6:8-15

How does the message the Stephen speaks and lives affect those living around him?

The men of Stephen's time are opposed to hearing the truth that Stephen proclaims. It is a reaction we all struggle with today. The people around Stephen highlight the reactions we fear when we try to talk about Jesus.

*These men began to argue with Jesus:* Sometimes we rear that we will not have the right thing to say. We can easily begin to rely on our own strength to convince others that Jesus is who He claims to be.

*They stirred up the people:* Ridiculing his words, they began to speak about Stephen like he was crazy, or a trouble maker. How often do we fear backlash when we think about talking to someone about Jesus? We sometimes may fear the possibility of rejection or the stigma of being labeled "holier than thou." Like Stephen we must learn that the message we speak is not our message, but the message of God.

**As he stands before the Sanhedrin, Stephen teaches us how to talk about Jesus.**

#### Read Acts 7:1-8

*God calls man* Consider the life of Abraham. Through his life we can clearly see the call that God has for every person. God's call is not aimless-it leads somewhere. God is planning for our future in the same way He planned for Abraham's future.

How do we learn to listen to God's voice? *Personal reflection...*

#### Read Acts 7:9-19

*God is with man* Look at the way God is with Joseph. No matter what the circumstance, God is present in Joseph's life. God is also present in our lives. God has promised to walk with us and He wants us to know His presence.

How do we become more aware of God's presence in our lives? *Personal reflection...*

**Read Acts 7:20-50**

*God provides for man* How can God's provision be more evident than in the events of the Exodus? The Exodus is a picture of God's providence. Despite all that God provides for them, it doesn't take long for the Israelites to get off track. Stephen turns to the men standing around him and shows that they have missed all that God wants them to be. They would not listen to the call of God and surrender to His plan. They had not made room for the presence of God. They shunned God's purpose in their lives.

How do we embrace God's purpose in our lives? *Personal reflection...*

How can telling the story of God's call, presence, and purpose in your life help someone else to see God? *Personal reflection...*