



Acts - The Birth of the Church - The First Martyr

Acts 6:8 - 7:60

Discussion Questions for April 19th, 2026

1. (IceBreaker). "There's just something unique about the first." Think about the first house you ever lived in. Is there anything memorable that sets it apart from other houses you've lived in? What about your first car?
2. **Main Idea: The Christian Life Points to Jesus.** Stephen was the first Christian martyr. An early Christian writer named Tertullian said, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." In what ways does this seem true, as you consider martyrs and the church over history? Why wouldn't such persecution scare people away from the Christian faith?
3. **Point #1: We Live Like Jesus.** Verses 8 and 10 of chapter 6 say that Stephen was full of grace and power, and that he also spoke with wisdom and the Spirit. Perhaps Stephen could have used these four qualities to be a successful merchant or city official, but he used them to serve the church and point to Jesus. Are all of those attributes present in your Christian walk? Which one can you pray for the Lord to increase in your life?
4. Read John 15:20. Have someone start a list of similarities between the deaths of Jesus and Stephen. Everyone else, root around in the latter parts of the gospels and see which commonalities can be found. Be sure to consider the charges, the trial, the manner of death, and the words spoken by each.
5. **Point #2: We Speak For Jesus.** Why do you think Stephen preached such a long sermon? What point was he getting across to the audience? Who was the audience?
6. Stephen seemed to be tearing down idols held by the religious leaders, like pride in the land of Israel and the temple. These were still religious in form, but not truly important for authentic faith in God. What are some "religious" idols that we are tempted to trust in today? This may even connect with our discussion from last week about changes in our local church.

7. **Point #3: We Die With Jesus.** Stephen sure seemed like he was ready for any consequence of his preaching, up to and including death. If anyone in the group became a Christian as an adult, how has your view of death changed? What emotions rise to the surface when you consider the last days of your life on earth?
8. Pray that we rely on the Spirit to give us the boldness of Stephen, so our lives point to Jesus, our words continually mention Jesus, and our final days rest in Jesus.