

“The First Martyr”
Acts 6:8-15; 7:55-8:1
Series: *In Search of Church*
Pastor Jim Oakley – May 20, 2018

WHEN GOD’S SERVANTS ARE PERSECUTED, THEY
CAN STAND ON GOD’S WORD AND FACE WHATEVER
COMES FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

1) STEPHEN, GOD’S SERVANT (6:8)

2) WAS PERSECUTED (6:9-15)

3) HE STOOD ON GOD’S WORD (7:1-53)

4) AND FACED DEATH FOR THE GLORY OF GOD
(7:54-8:1)

READ AHEAD FOR NEXT WEEK: Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-31

ABF/Small Group Guide

- 1) Describe Stephen’s character and ministry from this passage and last week’s passage (6:1-7).
- 2) Describe the encounter Stephen had with the Synagogue of Freedmen.
- 3) Compare the accusations against Stephen to those against Jesus? (John 18:19-40; Mark 14:53-65)
- 4) How did Stephen counter the accusations against Stephen?
- 5) What did Stephen imply was wrong with his accusers’ view of the temple?
- 6) What did Stephen charge the Sanhedrin with?
- 7) How did the Sanhedrin respond to his testimony?
- 8) What was the significance of Stephen’s vision before being executed?
- 9) Compare Stephen’s last words with Jesus’ words from the cross (Luke 23:34-46; John 19:26-30; Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34).
- 10) How did Stephen’s death glorify God?
- 11) How can we make sure that our lives and deaths give glory to God?
- 12) What areas do you need to learn to trust God to provide the courage and peace in times of struggle, and ultimately at death?
- 13) How can we pray for you this week?