

Part 15 | Stephen's Testimony

Acts 6:8-8:3

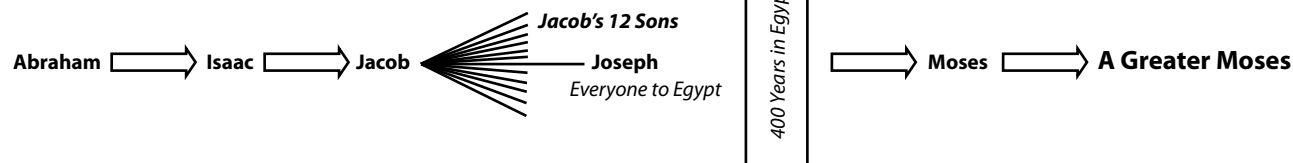
The Holy Spirit **EMPOWERS** us (6:8-15)

with gifts of grace 1 Peter 4:10-11; Ephesians 4:7

to become more like Jesus Romans 8:29; Colossians 3:10

to be **GRACIOUS** yet **FIRM** with the Gospel (7:1-53)

Stephen shares God's story



4-Part Story: Creation, Fall, Rescue, Restoration

and **FORGIVE** our enemies. (7:54-8:3)



Text us at **833-271-8805**.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "Pray for..." followed by your request.
Text the word "SHAPE" to register for the SHAPE mini-Retreat on Feb. 25 (9a to Noon).



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Each week we'll spend part of our time getting to know more about one another.

Share with the Group:

This week Josh challenged us to know God's story. And as you know God's story, your story begins to make sense because it's part of God's story! — When you think of your life, or a season of your life, is there a movie, show, series, book or character that best represents your story? What would the title be?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? — Take time to review and discuss what stood out to you from this week's message.

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. This week we saw Stephen empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness and share the Gospel of Jesus with a hostile audience. Do you have anyone in your life that might be considered "hostile" to the Gospel?
On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate their hostility?
(1 = just indifferent to it all, 10 = would totally slam the door in your face)
2. Doing the work of God involves winning over his enemies, not arguing with them. This is a big challenge given the polarizing culture we live in. As followers of Jesus we are free to express our opinions, but we need to be careful to do so in a way that is respectful and loving. How could the following verses help shape how we communicate with those we disagree with?

- **Circle or highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
- **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
- **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. **JAMES 1:26-27 (NIV)**

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR MISSION

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

YOUR PATHWAY

If you call Wawasee Bible "home", we challenge you to pursue three things:

1. Gather



Show up *regularly* and gather with us for worship.

2. Grow



Don't just show up, *grow up* spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.

3. Go!



Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much *or more than* you consume!

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for Acts 7:56-60 (NirV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

⁵⁶ **"Look!"** he said. "I see **heaven open**. The Son of Man is **standing at God's right hand**." ⁵⁷ **When the Sanhedrin heard** this, they **covered** their **ears**. They **yelled** at the top of their **voices**. They all **rushed** at him. ⁵⁸ They **dragged** him out of the **city**. They **began to throw stones** at him to **kill** him. The **witnesses took off their coats**. They **placed** them at the **feet** of a **young man named Saul**. ⁵⁹ While the **members** of the **Sanhedrin** were **throwing stones** at **Stephen**, he prayed. "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit," he said. ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees. He cried out, "Lord! Don't hold this sin against them!" **When** he had **said** this, he died.

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H W L S P G P L A C E D O

life groups Study Guide (continued)

⁹With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹²My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. **JAMES 3:9-12 (NIV)**

¹A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. **PROVERBS 15:1 (NIV)**

¹⁴May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. **PSALM 19:14 (NIV)**

- What do you think is the biggest hurdle for there person you thought of in Question 1 that is keeping them from really hearing the Gospel?
- Are there any obstacles that may be hindering you from really hearing from God?

3. Maybe the greatest key to winning over others and helping them receive the Gospel is to really hear from and draw near to God ourselves. If you aren't familiar with the story of Mary & Martha in **Luke 10:38-42**, stop and go read it now. — Martha missed a great opportunity to learn from Jesus because she was so focused on her responsibilities. Unfortunately, life's distractions often cause us to focus our time on less important tasks and keep us from drawing near to God. What priorities do the following verses encourage us to engage in and not put off until a more "convenient" time?

Psalm 46:10 **Matthew 5:23-24** **Luke 12:13-21** **Psalm 131**

- Is there anyone you need to talk to or any action you need to take in order to make these priorities more a part of your life?

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. **Divide into separate groups of men and women and pray for one another.**



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

Wawasee Community Bible Church

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ACTS

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION



PART 15

Stephen's Testimony

ACTS 6:8-8:3



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Please register your attendance on our **digital Connect Card** by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera, or by visiting **wawasee.today** in your web browser. Update your contact info, share prayer requests, or just let us know how we can serve you! You can also access today's bulletin using the same QR or link.