

THE BOOK OF *Acts*

|| Group Discussion Guide ||

Acts 6:8-15

January 21, 2024

STEPHEN: THE MAN AND HIS MINISTRY

1

What is the relationship between Stephen being “full of grace and power” and his ability to do “great signs and wonders”? What is the source of his power?

2

Stephen has been selected to serve tables (act as a deacon) (6: 5) and yet he also has the ability to do some of the same things that the apostles do (performing signs and wonders and speaking about Jesus). How might this fact provide context for our discussions about qualifications of ministry?

3

Despite Stephen’s ability to work miraculous signs, it is his speech that leads to his persecution. How does this point to the true issue for those who seize him?

4

How has the modern church experienced a world that may welcome their works but not their words?

5

What is Stephen accused of (6:11,13-14)? In what ways do these accusations resemble accusations made against Jesus (see Luke 20)?

6

The accusations made against Stephen highlight a devotion to the temple (“this holy place” (v.13)) and traditions (“the customs that Moses delivered to us” (v.14)). How does this point to the problem of making good things more important than the best things?

7

Stephen’s face appears to be transformed (6:15). How might this be compared to the description of the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28-36)? What does the change in his appearance point to?

8

Stephen’s closeness to the Lord causes a physical transformation that is unique. However, all believers are promised that they are undergoing a spiritual transformation. Does our spiritual transformation in any way resemble Stephen’s physical transformation?

