

Bold and Powerful  
Week's reading: Acts 7:1-8:3  
Discussion Guide: September 24, 2023

**CHECK UP:**

Memory work: Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." Acts 6:3-4

How did you live mission focused this past week?

**OPEN:**

- Who did you B.L.E.S.S. this past week? What action steps did you take?
  - o How did you live bold and powerful this past week?
- What stood out to you from this past week's reading?
  - o What questions do you have?

**READ and ASK: Acts 7:1-8:3**

- What rituals or traditions hinder change and spiritual progress among believers?
  - o How do you see that playing out in this text?
- What things can we learn from our Old Testament roots?
  - o How would Stephen want us to learn from our Old Testament roots?
  - o How did the religious leaders not do this?
- What does it mean to be stiff-necked?
  - o How can believers be "stiff-necked?"
  - o What stiff-necked attitudes prevent us from seeing what God wants us to see?
- What kind of opposition to God's message is there today?
- How do you tend to react when your conscience is pricked?
  - o How did the religious leaders act?
- How was Stephen like Jesus in this text?

**APPLY:**

- In what ways should we be like Stephen?
  
- How have you personally met opposition to your faith?
  - o How have you handled that? Is there anything you should have done differently? What would you do the same?
  
- How can we uncover attitudes that hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
  
- How does Stephen's prayer of forgiveness challenge you?
  
- NEXT STEP: Stephen clearly wanted all people to see Jesus clearly, what can you do to see and know Jesus better this week?

Memory Work:

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. - 1 Corinthians 15:58

Next Week's Reading:

Acts 8:4-40