



Week 4

Read Acts 6:8 and Acts 7:1-60

Discussion Questions

1. Stephen was arrested on false accusations, but he spoke boldly and explained the Old Testament all the way to his present time to show that Jesus was the Messiah. There were two responses to this truth: (1) Stephen's response: read Acts 7:55, 59-60; and (2) the crowd's response: read Acts 7:54, 57-58. Why do you think they were so different? How do you see these two types of response to this truth today? Which are you?
2. Read Acts 8:1-3, and 9:1-21. Saul experienced a dramatic conversion. Did your relationship with God begin dramatically or was it a more gradual process?
3. Read Acts 9:4-5 again. Jesus' words to Saul explains that, *What you do to my people, you do to me. Being in the presence of my people is the same as being in my presence on earth.* What does that mean for us today? Who are we representing as we work together as the church?
4. Ananias was an amazing servant of God. First, in Acts 9:10, we see him listening to God in a vision and responding with, "Here I am, Lord." Second, God told him to go see the very man who was torturing the christians, and he had a conversation with God about how scary that was (Acts 9:13-15). But after listening to God, "Ananias departed" and did exactly what God had directed. How amazing! What can you learn from Ananias? Who in your life do you think is impossible for God to reach and use? How does the story of Ananias and Saul encourage you?
5. Have you ever tried to share your faith with someone who had never heard the message of Christianity? If so, what happened?
6. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul clarifies the gospel message very succinctly. Why do Christians often add additional "requirements" to that gospel message?

"Christ did for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living" 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 6

7. What are some reasons it's difficult to trust God when we're in the middle of challenging circumstances? What are the costs of not trusting him?
8. Is there something going on in your life right now that you need to entrust to God? If so, what is one thing you can do this week to remind yourself that God is God, and he is on his throne? How can this group help you?