

Acts of the Holy Spirit - 8
Living Martyrs – Week of November 6, 2016
Bay Park Life Groups – Participant

There were four key symbols of first-century Judaism: the temple, the Torah, the land, and their ethnic identity as Jews. The gospel Stephen and the early church proclaimed challenged every religious boundary marker in one way or another.¹ N.T. Wright

The story of Stephen continues to challenge our faith and cultural boundaries some 2000 years later. Before launching out into the questions, pray that the Holy Spirit would so move in you that your life would be stretched, challenged, transformed by the power of God and to the glory of God.

1. What has been your favourite part of Acts so far? Which has been your least?

Read Acts 7:1-53 – yes it's long but it's worth it!

2. Stephen highlights certain aspects of Israel's history to make a critical point. In a sentence or two, what is the main point of his message?
3. Stephen could have politely worked his way out of a hot predicament, but he wasn't willing to compromise his faith in Jesus for it. What are your non-negotiables of faith and why? Have they ever been tested?

Read Acts 7:54-60

4. What happened to Stephen to prepare him for his death and for forgiving his killers? How can we know more of this ourselves?
5. How has God led you to forgive someone or something that you thought you would never get over? Who (group of people, type of person, individual) do you find yourself inclined to want to throw rocks at, even if just in your mind? How does Acts 7 help you with your attitude?
6. What is your main take away from this series or study?

¹ N. T. Wright, *Acts for Everyone – Part 1*, (John Knox Press, 2008)