

# Weekly Study Guide

The week of June 23, 2012

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	<p>Read Acts 6:8-15. The accusations against Stephen were a caricature of his actual Christian faith. Has your faith every been misunderstood? How did you feel? How did you respond?</p> <p>Pray today for clear pictures of Christ in the witness of Christians.</p>
Tuesday	<p>Read Acts 7:1-8. (See also Genesis 12:1-9 for the beginning of Abraham's story.) Stephen began his answer by telling the story of Abraham, the great forefather of Judaism (and Christianity!). Why do you think he did that? What did Stephen emphasize in the Abraham story? Have you ever had to trust God for a long time without seeing anything happen?</p> <p>Pray today for patient faith.</p>
Wednesday	<p>Read Acts 7:9-19. (See Genesis 37:12-36 for the beginning of Joseph's story.) Joseph suffered several, very serious rejections in the course of serving God in his life. Why would Stephen emphasize this rejection? Have you ever experienced rejection in the course of serving God?</p> <p>Pray today for strength in the face of rejection.</p>
Thursday	<p>Read Acts 7:20-38. (See Exodus 1-3 for the beginning of Moses' story.) Moses too was rejected by God's own people. What things did Stephen focus on from the story of Moses? Why do you think he chose those things? How is this related to their disagreement about Jesus?</p> <p>Pray today that we would be obedient to God according to the way of Jesus.</p>
Friday	<p>Read Acts 7:39-53. Stephen was pretty affirming in his memories of Moses, but he is more critical about the temple. What does he seem to be saying? How do you think his faith in Jesus helped him see these things?</p> <p>Pray today for all God's people to know and worship Him in Jesus Christ.</p>
Saturday	<p>Read Acts 7:54-59 and Luke 23:26-34. Stephen was killed for his faith, and we should be mindful that many Christians around the world still face violent persecution. What do you see or feel when you read the story of Stephen's death next to the story of Jesus' death? How is this kind of grace possible?</p> <p>Pray today for Christians who are being persecuted and pray also for the power of God's forgiveness in your own life.</p>



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