
Witness Unhindered:
“Every Story Whispers His Name”
Acts 6:8-7:53

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“I would not have preached the honor and glory of the cross if I feared the death of the cross.”
— The Apostle Andrew

“Seek what you seek; but remember that it is not where you seek it.”
— Augustine, *Confessions*

“All that the world has to do to escape judgment is *believe*—for the simple reason that, by the gracious work of Jesus, it has in fact *already escaped it*. It need do nothing to earn that escape, and it certainly need not compile questionable lists of good works to prove that it deserves to escape. It need not negotiate with God, or be afraid of God, or try conning God into being lenient. It has only to believe that God in Jesus has settled all his problems of sin and to laugh loud and long at how graciously easy the whole business always was.”
— Robert Capon, *Kingdom, Grace, Judgment*

“Yielding to God's will can be hard. And sometimes, it really hurts. But it always brings peace.”
— John Perkins, *Let Justice Roll Down*

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- Do any of the quotes above provoke thoughts for discussion?
- After reading through the passage together, ask your group what makes an impression upon them from the passage and why it strikes them.
- Can you think of a time in your life where you were falsely accused of something? What was the accusation? How did that make you feel? How did you react?
- James 1:5 says that when we face trials in life, we should ask for wisdom. What do you notice about Stephen's wisdom? How might that remind us of the wisdom of God that we see in Jesus? Do you ever ask for wisdom? If not, why not? If so, what have been some of those situations where you have prayed for wisdom?
- Ethan said that the religious leaders had forgotten the missing piece of the puzzle—Jesus the Messiah—and had put other things in its place. What are some “puzzle pieces” that you try to fit into the space where only Jesus belongs?
- What is it about the message of grace (versus a law-keeping message) that is so scandalous? Where in your life do you need to rest in God's love for you this week?
- Do you have any lingering questions or doubts from the passage or this discussion?