

EXPLORER'S BIBLE STUDY
The Acts of the Apostles
Session 8: Stephen – Student Notes
ACTS: 5:42-6:15
Heritage Church, Van Buren, Arkansas
October 28th, 2009

Welcome, sign in, and Prayer:

Memory verses:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

He must increase, but I must decrease! **John 3:30**

Attribute of God: October 28: God is a _____

Aim: To teach that what we look like on the inside is more important than what we look like on the outside.

Ice Breaker Discussion: Which responsibility at home or work would you gladly give up? Never give up?

1. The Activity of the Early Church! Read Acts 5:41-42

A. Daily ... never stopped. Obeying God rather than men!

B. _____ group, _____ group:

Large enough to _____, Small enough to _____!

C. Teaching – more for _____

D. Preaching/Proclaiming – more for _____

E. What was their Good News?

F. Discuss at Table: Do you live in a home where Jesus is talked about each day? If not, what will you do to become more like the early church? ...

1. A PROBLEM to be SOLVED! Acts 6: 1-2

A. The Number of Disciples was _____

B. What's the complaint?

Application: HOW MANY OF US JUMP INTO THINGS WE HAVE
NO BUSINESS JUMPING INTO?

C. What's the difference between a Hellenistic/Grecian Jew and a Hebrew/Hebraic Jew?

D. What was "not right" for the Apostles?

E. What is "the ministry of the Word?" Luke 4: 32, 36-41

F. Word Study: "Wait on/Serve Tables"

2. The SOLUTION! Acts 6:3-6

A. Who chose the ministers/deacons?

B. How many and why that number?

C. What were the qualifications?

1) Good _____

2) Full of the _____

3) Full of _____

D. To what were the Apostles going to devote themselves? (vs. 4)

E. Why is this so important?

F. Read Mark 3:13-15: What are Jesus' priorities and order of business for his disciples?

What priority is prayer and study of the Word in your life?

G. How did the early church feel about this arrangement? (Acts 6:5)

H. The Seven: All Hellenists ... why is that significant?

I. Nicolas ... proselyte from Antioch

J. The ORDINATION (vs. 6) ... prayer, blessing and impartation!

K. DOING THE RIGHT THING AVOIDS _____!!

- 1) Those with the complaint: Make the need known, instead of complaining and whining, and they trusted the solution of the apostles.
- 2) Those of the other party: Recognized the Hellenists had a legitimate need and they trusted the solution of the apostles.
- 3) The seven chosen men: Accepted the call to unglamorous service.
- 4) The apostles: Responded to the need without distracting themselves from their central task.

L. DOING THE RIGHT THING AVOIDS _____!

Apostles stay focused on the ministry God had for them!

3. The RESULTS: Acts 6:7

4. The Ministry of One of the Seven: Stephen!

A. How is Stephen described in vs 5, 8, and 10. What do you think he was like?

Everything in the Christian life comes down to the issue of _____!

--it is by faith that we are saved: Ephesians 2:8,9

--w/o faith, we cannot please God: Hebrews 11:6

--it is through faith that God heals and delivers! Acts 3:16

B. Who is opposing Stephen and how is their opposition like and dislike what the Apostles Faced from the Sanhedrin?

C. How effective were the arguments of the opposition? Read vs 10

D. What do you think this means, “they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke?” Luke 12: 11-12; Luke 21:12-18

E. What were their accusations? Vs 13-14

1) What did Jesus say concerning the temple? John 2:19

2) What did Jesus teach about the law? Matthew 5:17

F. What is verse 15 saying about Stephen? What do you think it means?

POINT: When you stand alone for Jesus, you are not alone!! 2 Kings 6 ... Elisha and his servant.

CLOSE: What two adjectives best describe your spiritual life? What would be different if you were “full of grace and power” and your face radiated God’s glory?

How might you grow in grace, power, and glory? See 2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:6,7, 18, context 3:7-18

How can the group pray for you?