



Small Group Study Questions

Week 11

Acts 7:51-8:4 (NASB 1995)

51 “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. 52 Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become; 53 you who received the law as ordained by angels, and *yet* did not keep it.”

54 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they *began* gnashing their teeth at him. 55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; 56 and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” 57 But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. 58 When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him*; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” 60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” Having said this, he fell asleep.

8 Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death.

And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 *Some* devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. 3 But Saul *began* ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

4 Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

QUICK REVIEW

Summarize one thing that Pastor Fred said in his sermon this past week that stands out to you.

DIGGING DEEPER

What are some stupid things we get angry over?

Why does anger sometimes result in destruction?

Overview with your group Stephen's sermon in Acts 7:2-53.

Read Acts 7:54-56

There are two contradicting attitudes about Stephen's sermon. What are they?

Why is the statement "Jesus standing at the right hand of God" so significant?

(Hint: Read Luke 22:69 & Colossians 3:1-2)

What difference does it make that Jesus is standing?

Read Acts 7:57-58

What do the actions of the religious leaders say about their hearts?

DIGGING DEEPER

What is your reaction to people who speak against Christianity?

Read Acts 7:59-60

Who did Stephen imitate with his final words? (Hint: Read Luke 23:34)

Q - How can we have this same attitude?

TAKING IT HOME

Which point from this weekend's message or small group study is most important for you to remember?

PRAYER REQUEST

