

Small Group Questions

Week of Sunday, February 4th, 2024

Launch

Share one of your passions/hobbies. This could be things like reading, hiking, cooking, crafting, kayaking, collecting, fitness/running, painting, building things, fishing, crocheting, just to name a few.

...How did you get into this past-time?

Observe (READ Acts Chapter 6:8-15)

1. In verses 8, 10, and 15 how is Stephen described? Share around the room the list of his characteristics.
2. In verses 9, 12, and 15 what were the responses of both the opposition group and the Sanhedrin to Stephen?

Process

1. Read Matthew 26:59-68. What similarities and differences do you see between Stephen's and Jesus's arrest and trial? (Luke's account is in Luke 22).
2. If Acts is about- "all that Jesus continued to do and teach," is Stephen's witness and death a critical account for us to have? Why or why not?

Observe (READ Acts 7)

1. Who are the major Old Testament characters that Stephen focuses on in his speech?
2. Starting with Joseph in verse 9, and continuing in verse 39 to the end of his speech, what is the main point of Stephen to his accusers?

Process

1. Read verses 39, 44, and 51. Try to put yourself in the shoes of those listening to Stephen. Do you think that they saw his accusation coming, why or why not?

Respond

1. Read Luke 12:12. How does this account from Luke's Gospel find its fulfillment in Stephen's witness? Is the fact that Stephen is executed a let down of this promise to you, why or why not?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:12-14- How is accusation and persecution a "muted" part of our Christian teaching in the west? What are your personal reflections on these Scriptures and Stephen's witness and death?
3. If you are comfortable, share your fears. What seems too great a cost for following Jesus? Where have these passages emboldened your faith? Where do you need prayer and encouragement? Spend the remainder of the time praying for one another.