

If Stephen was surrendered to and following Jesus, why would God allow him to be stoned?

1. Because Stephen's stoning **SCATTERS** the disciples out of Jerusalem for the **SPREADING** of the Gospel.
2. Because Stephen's stoning sets the stage for the **CONVERSION** of **SAUL** who spreads the Gospel far and wide.
3. Because the mission of Jesus is **WORTH MORE** than even our **EARTHLY LIVES**.



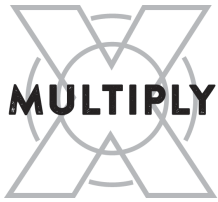
The Man & Martyr Stephen

Acts 6:8 - 7:60

Sunday, March 5, 2017

Stephen was a man surrendered to and following Jesus. What happens when a guy or gal begins to surrender to and follow Jesus . . .

1. Your **CHARACTER** begins to change.
2. You begin to **SERVE** the church, God's family.
3. You begin to **LOVE** and **UNDERSTAND** God's Word.
4. You begin to **GIVE** your **LIFE** to the mission of Jesus.



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Connecting & Caring Together (about 20 min.)

Take time to catch up and connect as you come together again. Share joys and sorrows as you live life together.

Grappling with God's Word Together (about 20 - 30 min.)

1. How did you “come under” God’s Word in the message this week?
Share one personal takeaway from the message.
2. Divide up the story of Stephen (Acts 6:5 - 8:3) and read it together as a group. We’ll look at the message of Stephen next week, but any initial observations about his message?
3. What are the words and phrases used to describe the character of Stephen in Acts 6:5-15? We don’t know who he was before, but who is he now? How has your character changed as you’ve surrendered and followed Jesus?

4. How did Stephen love and serve the church? Can you remember a point in your journey with Jesus when you began to love and serve the church? How did that happen? When did it happen?
5. One of the striking things about Stephen is that he really knows God’s Word and can talk about it. How well could you summarize the Bible’s story? What’s a next step you can take to deepen your knowledge and understanding of God’s Word?
6. In what ways did Steven’s life serve the mission of Jesus? In what ways, did Stephen’s death serve the mission of Jesus? Why would God allow someone like Stephen to die?
7. What would change in your life if you really began to see the mission of Jesus as more important than your earthly life?

Praying Together (about 20 min.)

Jump right into prayer and share your requests on the fly in prayer. As you pray for your own needs, pray also for God to shape us into disciples like Stephen, willing to live and die for the mission of Jesus.