growth groups

ACTS 6:8-7:60 – IMPACT IMMINENT
Courageous Faith

"Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God." Acts 7:54-55

Warming Up

1. Read through as a group Acts 6:8-7:60. This is a longer section and takes about 9-10 minutes to read.

2. How does the Scripture describe Stephen?

   - Is there anyone in your circle of friends, family or acquaintances who has similar characteristics to how you imagine Stephen? Explain.

Digging In

1. From verses 6:13-14, what were the formal charges against Stephen?

2. In Stephen's brief overview of Jewish OT history, what is he communicating about his respect for:

   - The OT law for the Jews?
   - The OT characters of Jewish history?

3. What parallels does he make between Moses and Jesus?

4. How does this relate to the charges against him in 6:13-14?

5. How does the quote in verse 37 begin to turn the tables on his accusers regarding who is really rejecting Moses?

6. From verses 44-50, what is his point about the temple and God's presence?

   - How is he turning the tables on his accusers once again?

7. Look at Deuteronomy 10:16 and 30:6. Why was referring to these well-known passages so effective for his argument and vexing to his audience?

8. Stephen's death was illegal (See John 18:31). What does that tell you about the desperation of the Sanhedrin?

Living Out

1. Stephen shined a light on the Jewish heroes, traditions and temple that had become more important to the Jews than loving God and loving the people that God loved. Do you see any similar tendencies among north American Christian's today?

   - Yourself?

2. Stephen saw the anger and danger to himself from the Sanhedrin. He could have been compliant and not pushed back. What do you think prepared Stephen to make such a courageous stand?

   - What would help you these days to have similar courage?