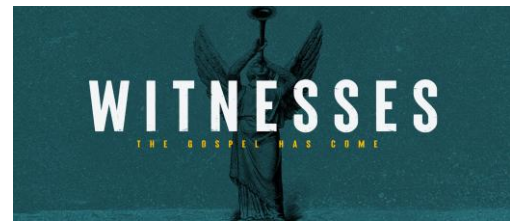


Groups Sermon Based Questions

Witnesses

May 10 & 11, 2025



Stephen

The sermon is up on the spac.ca website
Monday of each week.

Stephen, full of the Spirit, encounters opposition and suffering. Yet, even in his suffering he uses this as a witness to the risen Lord. Stephen's posture in suffering is a powerful way to witness to others.

Scripture: Acts 6:1-15; 7:1-60

Engage

Optional Icebreaker Question

1. **Would you rather question:** Regarding suffering, would you rather endure one paper cut a day for a year, or 365 paper cuts in one day (*Commence the squirming*)? **Why?**

Study

Series Overview: "In this series we'll look at 5 individuals in the Book of Acts who were witnesses to the fact that Jesus is alive and invites everyone to be part of His Kingdom under His loving rule. They're each a unique person, in unique circumstance in a unique part of the world; all sharing the same message. We'll challenge each other with the fact that the calling hasn't changed! We are called to be witnesses and every person's story matters, having the power to uniquely share the message that Jesus is alive" – Jeremy Cook.

Read Acts 6:1-15

1. **During the early church growth (v.1), problems and complaints arose between two groups of believing Jews. What was the problem and how did the 12 disciples deal with it? In what ways do we still see this applied today in our church?**
2. **What type of men were chosen for the task of distributing food and caring for the widows? Where might we fall risk of overlooking this same quality in other areas of our lives, work, church ministries, etc.?**
3. **When you think of the phrase, 'full of the Holy Spirit' (v.3), what or who comes to your mind? How would you describe someone who is full of the Holy Spirit / grace / power?**
4. **A.) Why was Stephen seized? Is there *always* a correlation between someone being filled with the Spirit and facing opposition? Why or why not?**

B.) Have you ever faced opposition in following Jesus? How did Jesus lead or teach you through it?

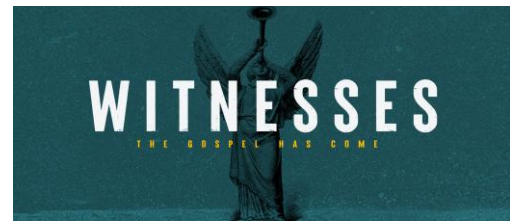
Read Acts 7:1-60

5. **What similarities do you see between Stephen and Jesus' trial and suffering? Why is this so significant?**
(Leader notes: Optional read... Hebrews 4:15-16)

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6. **Why does Stephen answer his accusers with the history of Israel, specifically Abraham and Moses? What challenge and application can we take away from this?**
7. **Specifically in v.51-60, what type of actions, posture or words stick out to you, that reveal Stephen as a man full of the Spirit? Can you relate or resonate with this type of response when faced with suffering/opposition/trouble? Why or why not?**
8. **Notice Saul, who approved and witnessed Stephen's martyr (v.58). In what ways can our posture/approach to suffering be a witness to others, pointing them to Jesus?**

Reflection and Prayer

1. **Are you in a difficult season right now? If so, this week, read & reflect on 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 in silence.**