

Fellowship Community Group Discussion Guide
Week of May 10, 2020

Introduction from the Leader:

- Welcome back!

Opening Questions:

1. Spend a few minutes catching up with each other, and find out how each person has been doing. Feel free to ask those who are quiet if they are doing ok and what's been going on.
2. When you feel it's time, shift to this opening question: What do you think is the most important quality in a great mom.

Into the Text : Ask everyone to turn to Acts 7. This occurs right after Stephen completed his speech. Ask a volunteer to read 7:54 to the end of chapter 7, and a different person to read chapter 8:1-3.

Let's talk about the rage of those who heard Stephen. What are all the things they did or said in response? Why do you think this reaction is so "over the top?" How did God "show up" for Stephen at this time? Would you say that Stephen was faithful to the end? Why or why not? (Talk about the text for a little bit, with your own follow-up questions.)

(If time) talk about the similarities between Stephen and Christ. What lesson do we draw from those similarities? How is Saul portrayed in this chapter, and what are we supposed to notice about him?

Application: So as we think about this passage and what application we can make to our own lives, how do you EXPECT God to show up when you are being persecuted for your faith? Do you expect persecution to be a rare or normal occurrence in your life? Do you feel prepared for it?

If you were arrested, imprisoned, and sentenced to death for your faith, describe how you HOPE you would respond, and what kind of witness you would want to be. Now, if you receive "lesser" persecution (mockery, ridicule) how can you respond in a similar way?

Prayer time: Ask for a volunteer to open, and a volunteer to close. Spend some time praying, and continue to remember those who are struggling with different challenges during this time. Pray that Christ would be the focus of our lives, individually and as a church.