

Life Group Notes – Sunday 3rd November

Stephen and the Persecuted Church

Read Acts 6:1-14

- What does this passage tell us about the character of Stephen?
- Do you think people would describe your character in a similar way?
- How much of Stephen's ministry do you think depended on his character and how much was as a result of his relationship with the Holy Spirit?
- Why do you think opposition arose against him?
- What kind of opposition do we face because of our Christian faith?

Read Acts 6:15; 7:51-60

- What do you think the significance was of Stephen having face like an angel? (6:15)
- How did Stephen react in the face of persecution?
- Why do you think he continued to share the gospel message despite knowing that he was talking to 'stiff necked people' who 'resist the Holy Spirit'? (7:51)
- What can we learn from Stephen about loving those who persecute us?

Read Acts 8:1-4

- Why do you think Stephen's death led to further persecution of Christians?
- What was the impact of persecution on the community of believers?
- Would we be willing to make the same sacrifices for our faith?
- How did God turn the situation into a good news story?
- What can we learn about God from this passage?

PRAY:

For those across the world facing opposition because of their Christian faith.

That by the power the Holy Spirit we will be able to stand firm and persevere in the face of opposition, love those who persecute us and trust in God to turn difficult situations into good news stories.

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