

## CVC Life Group Guide & Personal Study Guide: Acts 7:1–8:1 “Stand Like Stephen”

### Main Idea

Stephen stood boldly for truth because he was completely surrendered to God. His life and death point us to Jesus and challenge us to stand firm in faith.

### Key Verse

“But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.” — Acts 7:55

### 1. Welcome & Icebreaker : What do you need proof of before you believe something?

#### Icebreaker Game — Two Truths and a Lie

Have each person share: 2 true statements & 1 false statement The Group guesses the lie.

#### Transition

- How has a story changed you?
- How has truth changed you?

**Stories are powerful because they reveal truth through experience. Stephen shared the story of God’s faithfulness because he had experienced God personally.**

### 2. Context & Introduction

#### Quick Recap of Acts 6

Stephen was:

- Arrested    Falsely accused    Brought before the Sanhedrin

### 3. Stephen’s Message

#### Part 1 — The Truth (Acts 7:1–41)

Stephen retells Israel’s history:

- Abraham    Joseph    Moses

His main point:

God’s people repeatedly rejected the leaders God sent.

**Read:** Acts 7:35

#### Discussion Questions

- Why do people resist truth even when it’s obvious?
- What are some “golden calves” or idols in our culture today?
- What things can become more important to us than God?

**Key Point:** The temple was never the point. **Jesus is the point.**

## **Part 2 — God’s Presence (Acts 7:42–50)** Read Acts 7:48–50

**Main Idea** : God cannot be contained in a building. He desires transformed hearts.

### **Discussion Questions**

- How can church buildings or traditions sometimes replace genuine relationship with God?
- What does it mean for God to live in us?

## **Part 3 — The Altar Call (Acts 7:51–53)** Read Acts 7:51

Stephen confronts them directly:

- stubborn          resistant          spiritually deaf

### **Discussion Questions**

- What are ways we resist the Holy Spirit?
- What more proof of God’s faithfulness do we need?
- Have you ever ignored God because His direction was uncomfortable?

## **Part 4- Stephen’s Death & Witness** : Read Acts 7:54–60

### **Observations**

Stephen: remained peaceful    saw Jesus    forgave his enemies    prayed like Jesus

### **Discussion Questions**

- What stands out most about Stephen’s response?
- Why do you think forgiveness was so important in his final moments?
- What would it look like for you to “stand like Stephen” this week?

**Key Point** Stephen’s death became part of the spread of the Gospel. Sometimes God uses suffering to advance His mission.

### **Prayer & Ministry Time : Prayer Prompts**

Pray for:

- Boldness to stand for truth          Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit          Soft hearts
- Courage when standing alone          Salvation for friends/family          Strength during opposition

### **Final Challenge**

“If you don’t live for something, you will die for anything.”

Encourage everyone:

This week, ask God for one opportunity to stand for Jesus with courage and grace.

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