SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 7

The Son of Man Standing

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 7:59–60

"They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 7

Stephen stood in front of the most powerful court in his nation and told the truth about God and about them — and when the stones came, he prayed for the men throwing them. This week Acts 7 asks you to trust the God who is never boxed in, to quit resisting His Spirit, and to look up and see Jesus standing for you.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

A Promise and No Ground

READ · ACTS 7:1–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did God promise Abraham, and how much land did Abraham actually own in his lifetime (7:3–5)?

REFLECT

Abraham got "not even a foot of ground," only God's word (7:5). What are you waiting on God for right now with nothing in your hands but a promise?

REFLECT

Joseph's brothers sold him, "Yet God was with him" (7:9). Where has someone betrayed you — and where can you see now that God was with you even there?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one promise of God you are living on, and next to it write: "God was with Joseph in Egypt; He is with me here."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 7:59–60)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Deliverer They Pushed Away

READ · ACTS 7:17–36

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How did Moses' own people respond the first time he tried to help them, and what did God do with Moses forty years later (7:25–27, 30–35)?

REFLECT

Moses "supposed that his brethren understood," but they did not (7:25). When have you tried to do right in your own strength and timing, and how did it go?

REFLECT

God told Moses the desert where he stood was "holy ground" (7:33). Where is the "desert" in your life right now — a cell, a hospital, a lonely apartment — and how might God meet you there?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray Spurgeon's prayer for a worker today: ask God to send you where He wants you, and to go with you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 7:59–60)

DAY 3 OF 5

A House God Doesn't Need

READ · ACTS 7:37–50

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Israel make while Moses was on the mountain, and what does Stephen say about where the Most High lives (7:40–41, 48–50)?

REFLECT

The people "were rejoicing in the works of their hands" (7:41). What "hand-made" thing do you look to for security instead of God — money, a reputation, a routine, even a church building?

REFLECT

God says heaven is His throne and earth His footstool (7:49). How does it change your prayers to know God is far too big for any box you put Him in?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one thing you have been trusting more than God, tell Him about it honestly, and hand it back to Him in prayer.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 7:59–60)

DAY 4 OF 5

Resisting the Holy Spirit

READ · ACTS 7:51–53

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What three charges does Stephen bring against the Council (7:51–53)?

REFLECT

Stephen said they were "always resisting the Holy Spirit" (7:51). Where do you already know what God is asking of you, and you keep pushing back?

REFLECT

They "received the law … and yet did not keep it" (7:53). Where in your life is the truth in your head but not yet in your heart and hands?

RESPOND — TODAY

Stop resisting in one specific area today: do the thing you already know the Spirit has been nudging you to do.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 7:59–60)

DAY 5 OF 5

Jesus Standing for Me

READ · ACTS 7:54–60

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Stephen see when he looked into heaven, and what were his two prayers as he died (7:55–56, 59–60)?

REFLECT

Stephen saw "the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God" (7:56). What "court" are you facing right now — a judge, a family, a diagnosis, your own conscience — and what does it mean to you that Jesus stands for you?

REFLECT

Stephen prayed, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" (7:60), and Saul was standing right there (7:58). Who is the hardest person for you to forgive, and what would it look like to pray for him by name?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray Stephen's second prayer out loud today for one person who has hurt you, using his name.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 7:59–60)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Stephen told the whole story of Israel to show a pattern: God's people kept rejecting the men God sent (7:9, 27, 35, 52). Where do we see that same pattern in our own lives or in the church today?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Stephen was "full of the Holy Spirit" in the worst moment of his life (7:55). What would it look like for each of us to rely on the Spirit, not our own toughness, in the hard places we are facing?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Saul held the coats at Stephen's death (7:58) and later became Paul. Who is the "Saul" you have written off — and how should Stephen's prayer change the way we pray for him as a group?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You stood for Stephen and You stand for me, so today I stop resisting Your Spirit and ask You to...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 7:59–60

"They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep."