

Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 4/16/23 Bryce Taylor

Watch the sermon at manheimbic.org/sermon.



BIBLE PASSAGE - Acts 7:1-8

And the high priest said, "Are these things so?" And Stephen said:

"Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.' Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living. Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child. And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them four hundred years. 'But I will judge the nation that they serve,' said God, 'and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.' And he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

Other Passages: Hebrews 10:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:7; Acts 6:3-13

Connect:

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

Dive into God's Word. Use these discussion questions. Learn from each other's insight.

Read through Acts chapters 6 and 7 as a group and explore the rest of the passage we are in.

- 1) What do we know about Stephen, the main focus of Chapter 7? How can you relate to this person? What stands out in his description? (Acts 6:3-13)
- 2) Take a moment to discuss martyrdom, what does your group know of it, and how it does or does not exist today? Check out www.persecution.com/stories/
- 3) What kind of persecution do we encounter in the Manheim area? Lancaster? PA?
- 4) This weekend we discussed being ready to share the gospel, what is the immediate action step you feel called to in being more ready to share your faith? Share with the group and then spend some time in prayer for our community and one another in any areas of persecution.

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS