
Application Guide: Acts 7

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

- a. Do you like studying history? Why do you think history is taught in school?

- b. Share a funny or sad story from your personal family history. What does this story tell others about who you are?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: The last verse of Chapter 6 is very important for understanding the rest of the chapter. Acts 6:15 says, “And all who sat in the counsel, looking steadfastly at him [Stephen], saw his face as the face of an angel.”

Angels’ faces shine because they spend so much time with God—in His presence. After Moses spent 40 days with God on Mount Sinai, his face shone so brightly that the people asked him to wear a veil to cover it so they wouldn’t be blinded. Stephen was so filled with the Holy Spirit that he could perform amazing miracles and preach incredible sermons. That’s why his face was shining—because God’s Spirit was living in him. When God’s Spirit lives in you, it will shine out of your life as well!

Even though Stephen was performing amazing miracles that no human could perform and the religious leaders saw the Holy Spirit shining out of Stephen’s face, they still arrested him. The Bible says they seized Him because he was trying to change the customs passed down from Moses by teaching that Jesus was the Son of God who came to fulfill the Old Testament law.

Do you think you understand everything about God perfectly?

How do you know if a new idea about God is true or not?

How do you know if old understandings of God are true, or if they are just traditions?



Why do you think some people have such a hard time changing their understanding of God when He gives new light?

After being arrested, Stephen preached one of the most amazing sermons in the Bible. He spoke about the history of God’s people and how the church leaders had always rejected God’s prophets and, in many cases, killed them. Then He told them that when they killed Jesus, they had killed the Messiah. This made the leaders so angry that they rushed at Stephen, took him outside and stoned him to death. But even while he was being hit in the face and body with rocks hurled from all directions, Stephen’s face was still shining. He saw a vision of Jesus and peacefully fell asleep as he died.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

a. The Bible is a history book that tells about many different people’s experiences with God. Write out or tell someone about your history with God. Start with your earliest memories of God at home/Sabbath school/church and how they affected you. Write/talk about your baptism (if you have been baptized) and other commitments you have made to God.

b. Think of one event in your history with God that you wish you could change. Why would you change it?

c. Studying our history helps us to plan better for the future. Think of three things you would like to change about your future relationship with God.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Ask for God to help you implement the changes you have just decided to make in your life.
- b. Choose three people you know and pray that they can draw closer to God as well.
- c. Ask God to help you never become a person who *looks* religious but would actually be fighting *against* God—like the Jewish leaders who killed Jesus and Stephen.

