

Transition:

From serving widows to preaching to Saul (Paul) and the religious leaders and eventually martyrdom, we see the Spirit of God upon this man - giving him one of the most beautiful pictures in Scriptures, Jesus standing to receive him.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) Do the best you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it important for Stephen to mention the Patriarchs?
2. Why did the high priest become angry with him?
3. What is the significance of Jesus standing at the right hand of God?

Fundamental:

Prophecy – Prophecy is declaring the mind of God with conviction, power, and clarity. Prophecy is not primarily prediction of the unforeseen, but rather, Spirit-inspired confrontation which results in conviction and repentance. Another important thing to know is that there are over 300 messianic prophecies concerning Jesus - some have been fulfilled, some being fulfilled, and some will be fulfilled. The mathematical odds of someone fulfilling one is like taking a bow & arrow and shooting it across the universe and hitting the target bullseye.

1. Is it important to know Old Testament prophecies? What effect do they have on the Church today?
2. Is there still prophecy today? Have you ever prophesied?
3. Why does Paul state "Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy"? (1 Cor 14:1)

Homework/Challenge:

1. Study the Messianic Prophecies. Be able to talk to a non-believer about Jesus being the Messiah.
2. Please read Acts 8 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Encourage young Believers to know Scripture and earnestly pray for the gift of prophecy. Nothing is worse for a new believer than to be discouraged.

Prayer:

Pray for the gift of prophecy so that others may be edified.