



Week 10: Persecution

In Acts 6:8–7:60, Stephen’s bold witness for Jesus sparks fierce opposition from those determined to protect their traditions and power. Rather than shrinking back, Stephen faithfully proclaims the truth about Israel’s history and the Messiah they have rejected. His story reminds us that faithfulness to Jesus will often create friction with the world around us. Yet even in the face of persecution, Stephen finds courage and hope by fixing his eyes on Jesus. Following Jesus may come with a cost, but the presence of His Spirit and the promise of eternity remind us that Christ is worth the cross.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where have you experienced pushback or tension because of your faith? Do you think it was true persecution, social pressure, or something else? How did you respond?
2. In what areas of life (work, friendships, family, social media, etc.) is it hardest for you to live openly for Jesus? Why do you think that is?
3. When you think about following Jesus costing you something (comfort, reputation, relationships, opportunities), what concerns or fears come to mind?
4. What helps you remember that Jesus is worth whatever sacrifice or hardship may come from following Him?
5. **Read Romans 8:11-12.** How can we rely more on the Holy Spirit to give us courage to live faithfully for Jesus this week? Is there something God is calling you to do? How can we pray for one another?