1. The appointment of the Seven
   a) Acts 6:1, what was the complaint of the Hellenistic believers?
   b) What areas of contention today might distract us from our God-given mission?
   c) Acts 6:2–6, how were the seven chosen? What lessons can we learn for today?
   d) What was the outcome of this Spirit-guided delegation of responsibility? Acts 6:7

2. Stephens’s Ministry
   a) Acts 6:8–15, what impresses you the most about Stephen’s character and ministry?
   b) Where else in Scripture can you find someone’s face reflecting the glory of God? What does this tell us about Stephen’s life?
   c) Why should we expect persecution when we devote ourselves fully to the mission of Jesus? Matthew 10:17–18, John 16:1–3, Matthew 5:11–13

3. Before the Sanhedrin
   b) Why did Stephen spend so much time recounting the history of Israel? How was the Holy Spirit guiding him in this hostile situation?
   c) Acts 7:51–53, what caused the abrupt shift in Stephen’s presentation?
   d) What is the significance of his change of language from “our father Abraham” to “your fathers”?
   e) Acts 7:54, some who are “cut to the heart” repent of their sins and are baptized (Acts 2:37). Here the religious leaders gnash their teeth. Why is there such a different response here?

4. Seeing Jesus in the Heavenly Sanctuary
   a) Acts 7:55–56, Stephen is not only a deacon and an evangelist, he is also a prophet. What is the significance of this revelation given to him?
   b) How do the words in Hebrews 4:14–16 help us to understand Stephen’s vision?
   c) Acts 7:57–59, what is your reaction to the behavior of the members of the Jewish Sanhedrin?
   d) Acts 7:59–60, what is your reaction to the behavior of Stephen as he was being stoned to death by a group of out-of-control Jewish leaders?

5. Working good out of a bad situation
   a) How did God work good (Romans 8:28) through the martyrdom of Stephen and the intense persecution of Christians that followed? Acts 8:1–3, 4–8, 9–25, 26–40
   b) What can we learn from the Holy-Spirit anointed ministry of Philip? Acts 8:26–40; 21:86