

**Reflections on the Character of God**

The reflection section has five scriptures that pertain to this week’s aspect of God’s character. Take one passage a day and reflect on it in the context you find. Note your insights.

The life response sections give you two more verses to ponder. These passages relate to your response to the name, title, or attribute of God. Write down practical responses.

**Savior**

Reflection: Matthew 1:18-21; John 3:16,17; 1 Timothy 4.9,10;  
Titus 3:4-7; 1 John 4:13-16

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Life Response: Acts 2:21; 1 Timothy 2:1-6

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**A Discipleship Journey - Acts of The Holy Spirit**  
**Stiff-Necked – May 15, 2022**

Primary text: Acts 7:1-53

Stephen is full of faith, full of The Holy Spirit, full of grace and full of power.

When The Holy Spirit gives us words to speak, the result is both wisdom and a demonstration of the power of The Spirit.

*and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, - 1 Cor 2:4*

The accusations against Stephen are that he blasphemed;

- 1) against God
- 2) against Moses
- 3) against the temple
- 4) and against the law

Regarding Joseph, we are told, “*but God was with him and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom.* - Acts 7:9-10

The sovereignty of God in the circumstances of life continued to exalt Joseph.

If Jesus was the Messiah, wouldn't the Jewish people have recognized him?

Stephen is setting up this pattern where he says, “you always reject those chosen by God.”

The fact that Jesus was rejected actually proves that He was sent by God.

You can divide Mose's life into three 40-year segments.

40 years [in the courts of Pharaoh](#)

40 years [in the backside of the desert](#)

40 years [as a great leader among his people](#)

When we try to do God's desire man's way, it never bears lasting fruit, and it can actually get us in trouble.

This council put Stephen on trial, but God really had the council on trial, and it's only God's judgment that matters in the end.

This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, '*God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.*' - Acts 7:37

How the Hebrews treated Moses [foreshadowed](#) what these rulers did to Jesus.

Just like their forefathers, these men have [resisted](#) the Holy Spirit.

And here's the problem at its core, their hearts were [uncircumcised](#).

Martyr simply means [Witness](#).

There is no higher calling in life than to be a witness of the love and the grace of Jesus Christ!

### Discussion Questions

- 1) Read Acts 6:10 - Why did this synagogue get so angry with Stephen?
- 2) What were the accusations they made against Stephen?  
(There are 4)
- 3) What are some reasons that Stephen would share a sermon on the history of the Jewish people?
- 4) Why did Stephen bring up Joseph? Why did he bring up Moses?
- 5) What is it that kept people from following Jesus?
- 6) What was Stephen's indictment of the rulers? Does it apply to people today?
- 7) What does it mean that their hearts were uncircumcised?
- 8) What is the Holy Spirit conveying through this passage?

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**Prayer: Share how Stephen's story challenges your life and then pray for one another in the group that the Holy Spirit would give you the strength to respond to the challenge.**