

## The Book of Acts

### **This Week:**

Lesson: First Deacons, First Martyr

Scripture: Acts 6, 7:54-60

### **Next Week:**

**Homework Scripture Read:** Acts 7:1-53

### **Lesson Text:**

**Acts 6:1-4**            The distinction in ministry between elders and deacons

**Acts 6:5-7**            Growth, including many priests

**Acts 6:8-15**            The indictment of Stephan

**(Acts 7:1-53)**            Preview, to be covered next week

**Acts 7:54-60**            The death of Stephen

### **Discussion:**

- Discuss the distinctions of offices between the elders and the deacons
- Discuss “proselytes” (Gentiles converted to Judaism) and “God-fearers” (Gentile synagogue attendees) - Note that one of the deacons is a proselyte, and note that he is from Antioch
- Note the practice of prayer followed by laying on hands at the appointment of church officers – this is the basis for the modern practice of ordination.
  - Deacons (Acts 6:6)
  - Missionaries. (Acts 13:3)
  - Pastors (I Timothy 4:14)
- Note the intense ferocity of the Sanhedrin vs. the angelic, Christ-like aspect of Stephen
- Consider – all we know of Stephen is Spirit-filled.