

## **November 1**

### Acts 7:1-19

In these verses, we read the first part of Stephen's speech to the religious leaders after his arrest.

*Question to Consider:*

Stephen based his defense on the history of Israel itself. Why do you suppose he took that approach?

*Prayer:*

Father God, I know it is possible for something to become so familiar that I can miss the point. I pray that I grow as a student of your inspired word, the Bible, but as I do I also pray for your help. Help me to get the point of each passage that I read. Help me to hear what you have to say to me. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

## **November 2**

### Acts 7:20-34

This is the second part of Stephen's speech to the religious leaders following his arrest.

*Question to Consider:*

Did you notice the intervals of time mentioned in this passage? Moses was 40 years old when he visited the Israelites. It was another 40 years before he saw the burning bush. When you ask God for something in prayer, are you willing to wait for Him to respond in His time?

*Prayer:*

Loving God, I know that you want me to pray and sometimes in prayer I will make a request. Help me to be patient as I await your response, and to not lose faith even as I wait. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

## **November 3**

### Acts 7:35-53

This is the third part of Stephen's speech to the religious leaders following his arrest.

*Question to Consider:*

Stephen made the point that the religious leaders had consistently failed to do the will of God (listen to the Holy Spirit), and he accused them of doing that again. What do you think Stephen might say to religious people today?

*Prayer:*

Gracious God, I pray that I always seek to do your will. I pray that when the time comes, I will hear those wonderful words from you, "Well done, good and faithful servant." In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

## **November 4**

### Acts 7:54-8:3

These verses tell of the stoning of Stephen and the beginning of persecution of the early church.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Imagine yourself in the crowd watching what was going on as Stephen was dragged out of the city and stoned to death. What would you think? How would you feel?

#### *Prayer:*

Merciful God, what happened to Stephen was horribly wrong. When I see injustice, I pray that I have the courage to stand up in defense of the one who is being treated unfairly. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

## **November 5**

### Acts 8:9-25

This passage tells of a man known as Simon the sorcerer.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Simon was a magician who amazed people, so much so that they believed he had some kind of special powers. When you see a magician such as David Copperfield, do you believe that he/she has special powers? Does *anyone* have special powers?

#### *Prayer:*

Almighty God, you are the one with power and it is through your Holy Spirit that power comes to us. Help me to be open to your presence and power, and to view with skepticism claims of special power made by others. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.