

Pre-Sermon Devotional
What a Way to Die

This week's devotion is going to focus on the first Christian Martyr, Stephen, and his faith in Jesus.

Monday

Pray:

Read: Acts 6:1-6

Think about the following:

- 1) Why did a dispute amongst the believers arise?
- 2) What was the purpose of choosing the seven men?
- 3) What kind of man was Stephen?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you called ordinary men and women like Stephen to do extraordinary things in your name. Help our faith to grow so that we can faithfully serve you and help others to hear about your saving Word. In Jesus name, amen.

Tuesday

Pray:

Read: Acts 6:7-9

Think about the following:

- 1) What was happening with the Word of God?
- 2) Why do you think people were becoming disciples at such a fast rate?
- 3) Why did some of the Jews have a dispute with Stephen?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, because of sin, many reject your free gift of salvation. Often this frustrates us, so we don't share our faith. Help us to overcome this fear and share our faith with those who don't know you. In Jesus name, amen.



Wednesday

Pray:

Read: Acts 7:1-4

Think about the following:

- 1) Why did Stephen start his speech talking about Abraham?
- 2) How was this relevant to the other Jews that he was talking to?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, through Jesus death and resurrection, you have made us children of Abraham. Thank you that you love us regardless of our ethnic background or past actions. In Jesus name, amen.

Thursday

Pray:

Read: Acts 7:51-60

Think about the following:

- 1) How are we "stiff necked" people?
- 2) Why was Stephen so bold in sharing his faith?
- 3) What did he know would happen to him after his death?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, in spite of knowing it would mean his death; Stephen faithfully shared your Word with those around him. Help us to do the same even though it may have consequences. In Jesus name, amen.



Friday

Pray:

Read: John 14:1-3

Think about the following:

- 1) When will Jesus prepare a room for us?
- 2) Why is important that he is preparing a room NOW?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, our eternal life begins now; our room has been prepared for us. Thank you for the wonderful blessing of knowing that we will have eternal life in you. Help us to seek and save the lost so they too may receive eternal life. In Jesus name, amen.

Saturday

Pray:

Read: Acts 6:1-9; 7:51-60

Think about the following:

- 1) Think about this story and pray for your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who live in countries where they are persecuted because of their faith.

Pray: For the persecuted church.