

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

### Acts 7 *Coram Deo*

#### **Background (Acts 6:8-15)**

Stephen (one of the Seven) was doing *great wonders and miraculous signs among the people*. Opposition arose, accusations were made, and Stephen was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin. Acts 7 gives us Stephen's response.

#### **Digging In**

1. **Read Acts 7.** Jot down your first impressions.
2. The Jews of Stephen's day had a narrow understanding of God's activity, and of true worship. What examples does Stephen give of God's activity **outside** of Israel? (vss. 2-38)
3. The Sanhedrin placed a great emphasis on the temple. How does Stephen show that God could be worshiped **before** the temple was built? (vss. 33-46)
4. How does Stephen support his point by quoting Isaiah 66:1-2? (vss. 49-50; see also 1 Kings 8:27)
5. The Israelites often rejected those whom God sent to rescue or lead them. What examples does Stephen give? (vss. 9, 26-29, 39-43, 51-53)
6. How does Stephen liken his listeners to those who rejected the rescuers whom God had sent to their forefathers? (vss. 51-53)
7. How did the Sanhedrin respond?
8. In what ways is Stephen like Jesus at his death? Why do you think this is?



#### **Getting Personal**

- Are there any ways in which you tend to compartmentalize your relationship with the Lord? Explain.
- Look up the phrase *Coram Deo*. Practically speaking, what does it mean to live *Coram Deo*?
- What are the implications of living *Coram Deo* for you personally?