



A People Facing Martyrdom November 7, 2021

Reflect + Discuss

- Does the issue of persecution for your faith feel relevant to you? What comes to mind when you hear the word “martyr”?
- Read Acts 6:8-15 and 7:51-60 and discuss any/all of the following:
 - What stands out to you from the text?
 - What was Stephen charged with?
 - What did Stephen accuse the Israelite leaders of doing?
 - Describe Stephen’s response when being attacked.
- What distinguishes Christian martyrdom from other kinds of deaths? What do you think makes it possible for a Christ follower to love and forgive someone who is actively harming them?
- Why is it important to understand and talk about Christian martyrdom? What can we learn from those who have been persecuted for their faith – both in the past and today?
- What is a tangible step you can take to help our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who are currently being persecuted?

Dig Deeper

- To learn more about Christian persecution and read firsthand accounts, visit [Open Doors](#). After taking time to read stories from Christians around the world, try to imagine what it would be like to face extreme persecution for following Jesus. What stood out to you most as you read these stories?

Pray

- Pray for Christ followers around the world facing life-threatening persecution. Pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen, comfort, and encourage them, and that their persecutors would see the love and forgiveness of Christ and would turn to Jesus. Ask God to continue to strengthen and grow His Church despite persecution.

Next Steps

- Read the entirety of Stephen's speech to the Sanhedrin (Acts 7:1-53) and take time to reflect on the history of God's people.
- To receive prayer requests from Blackhawk's Global & National Servants, email Impact Ministry at impact@blackhawkchurch.org
- Check out the series [Resources & Tool page](#) for more resources related to the persecuted church.