

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Small Groups: Sign-Up Deadline Is Today

From October 29 through November 19, everyone at NewDay is invited to participate in a 4 week small group discussing the book *Forgotten God* by Francis Chan. If you are interested in being involved in a small group, please sign-up using this QR code.



Alpha Meets Monday Evenings

6:00-8:00 pm at Taco JED

Alpha is a community gathering over a meal while discussing faith and life's big questions. All are welcome. Contact derek@newdaycov.org to get involved.

Today: NewDay Kids Afternoon at the Apple Orchard

NewDay kids are invited to spend this afternoon at the apple orchard! We'll meet at Northwoods Orchard at 2 pm. RSVP to melinda@newdaycov.org.

There will be no Elementary Kids Group this Thursday, October 19, since it is MEA Break.

NEWDAY WEEKLY EMAIL

If you would like to receive NewDay's Weekly Email, with information about upcoming community opportunities, write your name and email here, rip it off, and leave this at the Offering Table in the back.

NAME

EMAIL



CONTACT

Email:
info@newdaycov.org



ADDRESS

The Izaak Walton Cabin
937 7th Ave NE
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ONLINE

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SUNDAY WORSHIP GATHERING

Guide me in Your truth and
teach me, for You are God
my Savior, and my hope is
in You all day long.

Psalm 25:5

NEWDAY COVENANT CHURCH

A New Day for NewDay

A look into why we gather, from the book of Acts



newdaycov.org

October 15, 2023
Pastor Kari Jacott
Stephen The Truth-Teller

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 6:8-15

8 Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. **9** Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen.

10 But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

11 Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God."

12 So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. **13** They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. **14** For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."

15 All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Acts 7:1

1 Then the high priest asked Stephen, "Are these charges true?"

Acts 7:51 - 8:3

51 "You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! **52** Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—**53** you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."

54 When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. **55** But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, **58** dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

1 And Saul approved of their killing him.

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. **2** Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. **3** But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

NOTES

SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Living to Magnify Christ is costly. Jesus said if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. (Mark 8:34)

As we read in Acts, Stephen becomes the first Martyr, and holds an important place in history. He pays the ultimate price to follow Jesus, with his life. And, he follows Jesus all the way to his death, and eternal life.

- What is hard for you, or troubles you as you read this text?
- Have you experienced persecution before, because you are a Christian? If so, what happened?
- Who do you know, or what people groups are you aware of that are facing persecution because they are followers of Jesus?
- Will you commit to praying for them regularly?
- What fears do you have about persecution, as a follower of Jesus?
- What promises can you recall if and when we will face opposition because we follow Jesus?

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