

**TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES**

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59

This discussion is based on the Friday Morning Men’s Fellowship study “Acts of Leadership”, available at https://leadmin.org/acts.



Use one of these to get the group talking about today’s topic:

• Describe a moment in your life where you were “bold”. Was it a leadership opportunity? A tough decision? Standing up to someone? Trying something new for the first time?

• Who is someone who you know and consider to be wise? What is one piece of wisdom they have shared with you?

• Have you ever faced opposition in your work or in leadership? What was it like, and how did you deal with it?



Go in-depth with these questions. Based on your available time, choose 3-4 that you believe are most thought-provoking:

• Read Acts 6:8-10. Why do you think opposition arose against Stephen?

• Do you know of any examples of opposition to God’s grace and power today? Why do you think people oppose godly leaders?

• Read Acts 7:54-59. Why were religious leaders opposed to Stephen’s message? Do you see examples today of religious opposition to godly leaders?

• Do you think martyrs for the Christian faith still exist today? Why or why not?

• Read Romans 5:3-5. What should be our attitude toward suffering for our faith?

• Read 1 Peter 3:14-15. How should we prepare for suffering? What does this look like for today’s leaders?

• What can a Christ-centered leader do to help those who are persecuted or oppressed?

• Have you ever experienced suffering or persecution because of your Christian faith? In what way? If not, why not?



• Think of a way you might help those who are suffering because of their Christian faith. Could you support them this week through prayer, financial support, or other means?

• Is it harder today to stand up for your Christian faith at work, at home, in the community? What is one way you might voice a Christ-centered viewpoint in your family, work or community this week, even if it may not be positively received by all?



• Commentary on Acts 7: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Act/Act_007.cfm>

• What does Acts 7 mean? <https://www.bibleref.com/Acts/7/Acts-chapter-7.html>

• *Acts 7: Stephen’s Response to the Council:*  <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/acts-7/>

• *First Martyr: The Story of Saint Stephen:*  <https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/51034867#>

• *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs* by John Foxe: <https://www.amazon.com/Foxes-Book-Martyrs-Pure-Classics/dp/0882708759>

• *Operational World, The Definitive Prayer Guide to Every Nation:* <https://operationworld.org>

• *Open Doors,* supporting persecuted Christians around the world: <https://www.opendoorsus.org>

• *The Voice of the Martyrs:* <https://www.persecution.com>

• *Radical,* Equipping Christians to be On Mission: <https://radical.net>

• *Acts: An Expositional Commentary* by R.C. Sproul: <https://www.amazon.com/Acts-Expositional-Commentary-R-C-Sproul/dp/1642891851>

• *Life Lessons from Acts* by Max Lucado: <https://www.amazon.com/Life-Lessons-Acts-Max-Lucado/dp/0310086388>

*• Acts Bible Study* by Kendra Graham: <https://thecove.org/blog/kendras-bible-studyacts-18/>

**More ways to apply “Truth and Consequences” to your life and leadership:**

• Find out more about persecuted Christians around the world, and begin praying for those who are suffering for the cause of Christ and their Christian faith.

• “Draw a line” in your life and leadership on key Christian beliefs. Consider what you might do if asked to compromise in an area of your faith. Are you more likely to give in to persecution, or stand up for your faith? Make a list of those areas and what your response would be in order to stand up for your faith?

• Memorize important Scriptures that back up your beliefs. Have these in your mind when you face challenges and obstacles in your life and leadership.

• Consider how your business or company might be a Gospel influence with your employees, customers or in your community.

• Get involved with Open Doors, Voice of the Martyrs, or another organization that supports persecuted Christians around the world.

*The resources and links mentioned above are given to encourage further study. They’re not exhaustive and may contain various viewpoints on Scripture that differ from your own theological beliefs. Friday Morning Men’s Fellowship doesn’t endorse any specific author, and encourages you to study the Scriptures thoroughly and rely on the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts and actions.*