

## **The Acts of the Apostles - Chapters 6 - 7 Study Questions**

1. **Acts 6:1–6** Who were the Hellenist members of the Jerusalem Church?

Who were the Hebrew members?

**Footnote p. 216, 6:1-6 The earliest Jerusalem Church**

2. **Acts 6:6** What does the gesture of “laying on of hands” signify here?

If you know any ordained deacons, how would you describe their ministry?

**Footnote p. 217, 6:6 Laid their hands**

**Footnote p. 217, 6:3 Seven men**

**CCC 1570** Deacons share in Christ's mission and grace in a special way. The sacrament of Holy Orders marks them with an *imprint* ("character") which cannot be removed and which configures them to Christ, who made himself the "deacon" or servant of all. Among other tasks, it is the task of deacons to assist the bishop and priests in the celebration of the divine mysteries, above all the Eucharist, in the distribution of Holy Communion, in assisting at and blessing marriages, in the proclamation of the Gospel and preaching, in presiding over funerals, and in dedicating themselves to the various ministries of charity.

3. **Acts 6:8–7:60** What cause resulted in the death of Stephen?

How does Luke compare Stephen's trial and death to those of Jesus?

**Footnote p. 217, 6:8-7:60 The ministry and martyrdom of Stephen**

4. **Acts 6:8–10** How would you describe Stephen's ministry as an apologist?

Why does that ministry require wisdom and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit?

**1 Cor 2:4-5** (p.287) and **Footnote 2:4 In demonstration of the Spirit**

**1 Pet 3:15-17** (p. 455)

5. **Acts 7:1–53** How does Stephen's speech stress a historical pattern of rebellion in Israel?

In what way does Stephen undermine Jewish reverence for the Jerusalem Temple?

**Footnote p. 217, 7:1-53 Stephen's defense speech**

6. **Acts 7:9–16** What is the connection between the story of Joseph and that of Jesus?

**Footnote p. 218, 7:9-16 A summary of the Joseph story**

7. **Acts 7:41** What was the purpose of the sacrificial laws and liturgies in Exodus and Leviticus?

If these laws were of secondary importance, what do they suggest is primary?

**Footnote p. 219, 7:41 They made a calf**

**Footnote p. 89, 12:33 Burnt offerings and sacrifices**

8. **Acts 7:49–50** What contrast between God’s creation and man’s is Stephen making in Isaiah 66:1–2?

**John 4:21-24** (p. 168)

Footnote p. 169, **4:23 In spirit and truth**

9. **Acts 7:51** How might a Christian become stiff-necked and stubborn and so resist the Holy Spirit?

What patterns of resistance to the Spirit do you see in yourself?

**Ephesians 4:29-32** (p. 351)