

w/b 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018

## THE STONING OF STEPHEN - LIFE APPLICATION:

Acts 6:8 – 7:60 This is a long scripture so I recommend you read 6:8-15, briefly summarise Stephen's sermon (7:1-53) and then read 7:54-60

### LAUNCH

What is the bravest act you have ever seen or ever done?

What made it brave?

### DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

What key truths do we learn about Stephen as we read this scripture?

What were the accusations against Stephen (Acts 6 passage) and why were they so serious?

Get the group to skim read Stephen's defence in Acts 7:1-53. It looks like he is providing a summary of the Old Testament but where does this lead and what is he really saying?

When was the last time you shared your faith with someone and how did the conversation go?

Why is our society plagued by indifference as opposed to hostility to the gospel?

Is there any way we can overcome this?

What sort of issues do people get hostile towards Christians about?

How do we go about addressing these issues using what John Burke (*No perfect people allowed*) calls 'humble truth'.

Why is the gospel as difficult to accept now as it was in AD30 (ish)

What are the similarities between the death of Stephen and the death of Christ?

What amazing attitude do you see in both?

How do you often find yourself facing tough or challenging situations?

What lessons can you learn from Stephen?

Andy talked about not being stiff necked like the Sadducees. In what ways can we be stiff necked and how do we avoid this?

### APPLICATION

Pray for wisdom and the Holy Spirit to share your faith well especially when challenged.

Pray for anyone in the group facing difficult circumstances that you will display the same qualities that Stephen and Christ displayed.