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Mid-Week Worship and Study Handout

Topic: Faith Under Fire

Text: A Study Thru the Book of Acts

E. The Climax of Persecution in Jerusalem: Stephen Acts 6:8-8:30

Pivotal Person #1

1. Stephen brought a council. (6:8-15)

2. Stephen's Sermon (7:1-53)

When faith is under fire, those who possess the fire will be put on display and questioned.

Acts 7:1- Then said the high priest, Are these things so?

This question was directed to Deacon Stephen because of his position in Christ Jesus.

Stephen was a man:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

The question, "*Are these things so*" refers back to:

Acts 6:14

For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

Stephen had to defend his statements before the council.

When our faith is under fire, we must know how to adequately represent what we believe.

For the average believer, the defense of our faith is grounded in our _____.

_____ vs. _____

The Challenges with defending _____ with a _____:

The Faith:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

My Faith:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Most Testimonies are _____ based;
_____.

Stephen delivered more than a sermon to the council of Jewish leaders.

Stephen offered _____ – speaking in defense.

_____ – is the discipline of defending doctrine through systematic argumentation.

Systematic – _____

Types of Apologetics:

1. Classical
2. Evidentialism
3. Fideism

Explanations:

1. _____ – logical criteria
2. _____ – empirically and historically verifiable facts
3. _____ – faith based “Just believe.”

Stephen’s apologetics was based primarily in _____.

empirically and historically verifiable facts

This method was used due to the audience in which he had to address. Religious Leaders

Building an Evidentialism Apologetic Argument:

1. Historical Data – Acts 7:2-54

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. _____

F. _____

G. _____

H. _____

I. _____

J. _____

K. _____

L. _____

M. _____

- Notice time frames and places.

2. Current Data – Acts 7:53

Who have received the law by the disposition of angels and have not keep it?

A. The lack of ability to _____
_____.

B. The hardness of the present _____

C. The ability to contrast the religious vs.

The purpose of Apologetics is to release _____.
Knowing what you believe comes with a _____.

Truth is:

- _____ - Acts 7:54
When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart and the gnashed on him with their teeth.

- _____ - Acts 7:55-60
Stephen's Assurance:
But he, being full of the Holy Ghost looked up stedfastly into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing on the right hand of God.

Stephen's Death - Acts 7:58-60

Dying in Strength

Verse 58 - Casting stones at Stephen

Verse 59 - Stephen calling on the Name of the Lord while being stoned to death.

Verse 60 - Positions of strength:

- Kneeling _____

- Praying aloud _____

- Forgiveness for others _____

- Falling asleep. _____

Stephen revealed the strength of his calling in life and in death. All of the _____ that were seen in him at the beginning of his ministry, were _____.

Closing Thought:

_____.