

Discussion Questions for 12-7
Acts 7:1-29

Acts 7:1-3

- How would you summarize in one sentence what Stephen is actually on trial for at this point? (See Acts 6:11-14 for context). How does that shape how you hear his speech in chapter 7?
- God appears to Abraham while he is still in Mesopotamia, before he has done anything. What does that teach about God's initiative in salvation and calling today? Where have you seen God take the first step in your own story?

Acts 7:4-8

- God promises Abraham land and descendants, yet Abraham never fully sees the promise realized in his lifetime. How does that mirror the Christian life now?
- God predicts suffering (slavery for 400 years) and rescue (judgment on the oppressing nation and worship "In this place"). How does this combination of suffering and certainty of deliverance shape a healthy view of the Christian life?

Acts 7:9-16

- Stephen says the patriarchs were "jealous of Joseph" and sold him into Egypt, "but God was with him and rescued him out of all his afflictions." How do jealousy and rejection in this story foreshadow how Israel treated Jesus? What parallels do you see?
- God uses the brothers' evil act to put Joseph in position to save them during the famine. How does this encourage you when you think about painful or unjust experiences in your own life? In what ways can God work for good through what others meant for harm?
- Joseph is rejected the first time by his brothers but accepted the second time when they recognize him. How might Stephen be hinting at Israel's rejection of Jesus at his first coming and the possibility of recognition and repentance later?

Acts 7:17-22

- Verses 17-19 describe Israel's suffering growing worse just as God's promise to Abraham was drawing near to fulfillment. How does this pattern (things getting darker before deliverance) show up elsewhere in Scripture and in your own experience?
- Moses is miraculously preserved and raised in Pharaoh's household, "educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians" and "mighty in his words and deeds." How does this unlikely preparation display God's providence, and how might God be preparing you in surprising ways for future service?
- Moses grows up with a dual identity: Hebrew by birth, Egyptian by upbringing. How might living between two worlds have prepared him to be a mediator, and what does that teach about how God can use even confusing times in our lives as well?
- Moses flees to Midian and lives in obscurity for forty years. What does this long hidden season teach about God's timing in developing leaders? How might this speak to people in your group who feel like they are "on the self" or waiting?

Pulling it Together for Group Application

- Looking at Abraham, Joseph, and Moses together, what themes do you see about how God works with His people across generations (promise, delay, suffering, rejection, rescue)? Which of those themes connects most strongly with where you are in your life right now?
- If you had to summarize Acts 7:1-29 as one "big idea" for your small group to take into the week, what would it be, and what is one concrete step of obedience or trust that flows from it?