



## Have you ever felt all alone?

<sup>8</sup> And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen. <sup>10</sup> But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. <sup>11</sup> Then they secretly induced men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God.” <sup>12</sup> And they stirred up the people, the elders and the scribes, and they came up to him and dragged him away and brought him before the Council. <sup>13</sup> They put forward false witnesses who said, “This man incessantly speaks against this holy place and the Law; <sup>14</sup> for we have heard him say that this Nazarene, Jesus, will destroy this place and alter the customs which Moses handed down to us.” <sup>15</sup> And fixing their gaze on him, all who were sitting in the Council saw his face like the face of an angel.

Acts 6:8–15 (NASB)

### God Has Always Been With People:

#### I. God appeared to Abraham.

Acts 7:2–8 (NASB)

<sup>2</sup> And he said, “Hear me, brethren and fathers! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, <sup>3</sup> and said to him, ‘LEAVE YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR RELATIVES, AND COME INTO THE LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU.’ <sup>4</sup> Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. From there, after his father died, God had him move to this country in which you are now living. <sup>5</sup> But He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot of ground, and yet, even when he had no child, He promised that HE WOULD GIVE IT TO HIM AS A POSSESSION, AND TO HIS DESCENDANTS AFTER HIM. <sup>6</sup> But God spoke to this effect, that his DESCENDANTS WOULD BE ALIENS IN A FOREIGN LAND, AND THAT THEY WOULD BE ENSLAVED AND MISTREATED FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS. <sup>7</sup> ‘AND WHATEVER NATION TO WHICH THEY WILL BE IN BONDAGE I MYSELF WILL JUDGE,’ said God, ‘AND AFTER THAT THEY WILL COME OUT AND SERVE ME IN THIS PLACE.’ <sup>8</sup> And He gave him the covenant of circumcision; and so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.”

#### II. God was with Joseph.

Acts 7:9–10 (NASB)

<sup>9</sup> “The patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt. Yet God was with him, <sup>10</sup> and rescued him from all his afflictions, and granted him favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he made him governor over Egypt and all his household.”

#### III. God spoke to Moses.

Acts 7:30–34 (NASB)

<sup>30</sup> “After forty years had passed, AN ANGEL APPEARED TO HIM IN THE WILDERNESS OF MOUNT Sinai, IN THE FLAME OF A BURNING THORN BUSH. <sup>31</sup> When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look more closely, there came the voice of the Lord: <sup>32</sup> ‘I AM THE GOD OF YOUR FATHERS, THE GOD OF ABRAHAM AND ISAAC AND JACOB.’ Moses shook with fear and would not venture to look. <sup>33</sup> BUT THE LORD SAID TO HIM, ‘TAKE OFF THE SANDALS FROM YOUR FEET, FOR THE PLACE ON WHICH YOU ARE STANDING IS HOLY GROUND. <sup>34</sup> I HAVE CERTAINLY SEEN THE OPPRESSION OF MY PEOPLE IN EGYPT AND HAVE HEARD THEIR GROANS, AND I HAVE COME DOWN TO RESCUE THEM; COME NOW, AND I WILL SEND YOU TO EGYPT.’”

**IV. David found favor in God's sight.**

Acts 7:46–50 (NASB)

<sup>46</sup> "David found favor in God's sight, and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. <sup>47</sup> But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. <sup>48</sup> However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says: <sup>49</sup> 'HEAVEN IS MY THRONE, AND EARTH IS THE FOOTSTOOL OF MY FEET; WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?' says the Lord, 'OR WHAT PLACE IS THERE FOR MY REPOSE? <sup>50</sup> WAS IT NOT MY HAND WHICH MADE ALL THESE THINGS?'"

**V. God spoke through the prophets.**

Acts 7:51–53 (NASB)

**VI. Stephen is filled with the Holy Spirit and sees Jesus.**

Acts 7:55–60 (NASB)

<sup>55</sup> But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; <sup>56</sup> and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." <sup>57</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. <sup>58</sup> When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" <sup>60</sup> Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

**Main point:** \_\_\_\_\_



**DOGGY BAG**

**Something to take home and chew on!**

- 1. When have you experienced God as a present reality in your life?** How have you encountered God's Spirit? Has there been a time in your life when you experienced God's Spirit at work in your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2.** How do you live differently when you remember that God is with you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3.** What would change in your life if you lived with a spiritual, eternal, transcendent perspective on your life's struggles and successes?

**Take a step in faith this week:**

- 1. Let us know you are here today.** Fill out a Connection Card every Sunday through either the Christ Church app or the Connection Card tab in the top menu bar of the Online Campus Platform ([LIVE.CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG](https://LIVE.CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG)).
- 2. Come and bring the whole family to our Wednesday Night Dinner (5:30pm) & Discipleship (6:30pm).** Join a class ([pcharbonneau@christchurchva.org](mailto:pcharbonneau@christchurchva.org)), serve in Kids' Ministry ([agraybill@christchurchva.org](mailto:agraybill@christchurchva.org)) or join the Dinner Hospitality Team ([badams@christchurchva.org](mailto:badams@christchurchva.org)).
- 3. Check out our online bulletin each Sunday.** Use the Christ Church app, or the Resources tab\* in the top menu bar of the Online Campus Platform, to access.
- 4. Join us for Midday Prayer** each weekday at noon on our Online Campus Platform ([LIVE.CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG](https://LIVE.CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG)).

\*Quick link to Connection Resources: [CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/CONNECT-WITH-US](https://CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/CONNECT-WITH-US)

**ANSWER KEY** – Main point: **YOU ARE NOT ALONE. GOD IS WITH US.**