

## Bible Character series of readings – week 35

26<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**Monday: Acts 6:1-7. First steps in Ministry:** The apostles were willing to serve, but focussing on their main ministry made room for others. What two phrases are used of Stephen in v5? How would others see this in him, or in you?

**Tuesday: Acts 6:8–15. See how Stephen is described** in v8 as a “man full of God’s grace and power”. How would you sum up your Christian life and ministry in a short phrase? Ask a friend to pray with you and tell you if your description is accurate.

**Wednesday: Acts 7:44-53. Stephen preached to his accusers** from the Old Testament and his boldness to challenge them shows how well he knew it. Does the New Testament grip you and give you boldness in your worship?

**Thursday: Acts 7:54-60. Stephen may have been the first to be killed** for his faith, but he has certainly not been the last. Pray for those in North Korea, Pakistan, Syria, and elsewhere who are persecuted and killed for following Jesus.

**Friday: Acts 8:1-3. The impact of sacrifice:** It has been said that “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church”, and persecution often results in Church growth. What sacrifices are you willing to make to see the gospel spread?