

## Radical: Dying and Living Discussion Questions

### Acts 7:54-8:2

1. What thoughts, questions, or feelings do you have after reading the passage or listening to the sermon?
2. When you read Stephen's reaction to his stoning in Acts 7, what thoughts or feelings come to mind? If you were in his shoes, how do you think you would have reacted? How do you think he was able to have such a reaction?
3. Christians were an oppressed minority for the first 4 centuries of its existence (this is longer than the history of the United States!), yet it grew exponentially. The past two weeks, Drew has spoken about love and fearlessness as contributing factors to this resilient movement. Would you agree/disagree that love/fearlessness are legitimate reasons? Why or why not? Is there anything else that you think is missing to explain the miracle of the explosive growth of Christian faith?
4. What do you think would happen to the church today if Christians became an oppressed minority again? What do you think would happen to Christians in New York today?
5. Ernest Becker writes in his book *The Denial of Death*, that "The irony of man's condition is that the deepest need is to be free of the anxiety of death and annihilation; but it is life itself which awakens it, and so we must shrink from being fully alive." What thoughts or feelings are sparked by this quote? Would you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
6. How does Becker's quote compare to Jesus quote in John 11:25, "he who believes in me, though he may die, yet he shall live"? How does Christianity give the resources to battle fears, even the ultimate fear of death?
7. What fears or anxieties are you currently carrying? How can faith in Christ inform those fears?
8. Break up into groups of 2-3 and pray for one another's fears and anxieties.