**MARCH 4, 2018 SERMON & COMMMUNITY GROUP NOTES**

* Observation: Read Acts 7:1-53 and summarize the contents of Stephen’s speech in your own words.
* What were the accusations against Stephen in Acts 6:11-14? What is Stephen’s basic response to these accusations?

1. **What is the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament?**

* What does Stephen’s speech (Acts 7:2-53) teach us about the relationship between the Old Testament (Israel, Moses, Judaism) and the New Testament (Jesus, the Church, Christianity)? How would you explain this to someone who is having a hard time understanding how the Old Testament relates to the New Testament?
* Do YOU read/study the Old Testament, or just the New? Do YOU understand how the whole Bible fits together, or just part?

1. **Where is God’s Dwelling Place?**

* What point is Stephen trying to make about the Temple in Acts 7:44-50? What does this have to do with missions, i.e. our understanding of God as a global God, a God of all nations?
* Do YOU worship an American God or a God of all nations? How are YOU living on mission with Jesus to all nations?

1. **Rebellion or Obedience: What is Your Response?**

* What examples of Israel’s past rebellion does Stephen provide in Acts 7:2-50? Why does he accuse the Jewish leaders of committing the same rebellion in Acts 7:51-53?
* What is YOUR response to Jesus: rebellion or obedience? Are YOU saved? Are YOU merely religious or are YOU growing in YOUR relationship with Jesus?