

THE PASTOR'S *ESSENTIALS*®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. ¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.
MATTHEW 7:13-14

es-sen-tials (ĭ-sĕn'shəlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

Acts of the Apostles A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION FIVE

Acts 6:8-8:3

Questions for Session Five

1. Define: *martyrdom*. What is the definition of a Christian martyr? Name several early Christian martyrs. How did their acts advance Christianity?
2. Are there those, who died for their Christian beliefs, and they are *not* considered to be Christian martyrs? Why are they *not* considered to be Christian martyrs?
3. Who were the people ultimately responsible for Stephen's death? What were the charges against him, and what was the basis for these charges? Does any of this relate to the familiarity with their fear and disillusionment with Christ?

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9. Whom do you think was responsible for this latest outbreak of the persecution of the early Church? Was this well-known persecutor part of God's plan? Why were the apostles not scattered like the rest of Jesus' followers?

10. If God would eventually employ Saul as a primary character in the spreading of the early Christian movement, as vile as he was, how can we be used today to build God's Church? Explain how God has called or may be calling you?

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