

WEEK BEGINNING 19 FEBRUARY

Why "Revive?"

We believe God has called us to a season of prayer for twelve weeks to partner with him. We are asking him to revive our hearts and lead us to invite others into his love. This guide is a tool to help keep us focused during this season. And remember Bill's word: Whom he sends, we will serve.

 Get in groups of two.
One person read out loud the scripture and another read the reflection below.

3. Also read the questions in the Prayer section. Someone decide to go first and answer the questions in the form of prayer, praying out your answers to God.

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 7:54-60 – STEPHEN ON OCCASION OF HIS DEATH. When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

REFLECTION: Wow. Stephen's experience sounds so other-worldly and unique. And what a difference it made in how Stephen responded to those who sought to kill him. Who acts like this? Jesus, that's who! And seeing Jesus as he is – right now – gave Stephen the courage and strength to speak truth and extend Christ's forgiveness and love to those who were stoning him.

Stephen's experience is not unique. Every one of us disciples has access to intimacy with Jesus, and we receive his power and strength when we see him for who he is.

PRAYER: Read the questions/ prompts below. Someone decide to go first and pray out to God your answers to each question/prompt. The person not praying out loud is agreeing in prayer for the person praying for themselves.

1. Ask the Spirit to fill your imagina-