

# Expect the Unexpected

## Acts 7:1-43

3.10.2024

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Empowered

**Reflect**

Outline: Recap

**Realize**

Points to Ponder

**Respond**

Questions to draw out understanding.

### REFLECT

In our lives, we often want to have things all figured out, and we can even take this mindset into our relationship with God. We want God to work in ways that we can expect and understand. Stephen's speech is a reminder that God has never really fit into the box that people create, and the story of Israel proves it. Reflecting on that story is an opportunity for us to think about our own expectations, shift the way we look at our own circumstances, and truly see God at work in our midst.

### REALIZE

#### 1. Promise of God.

- **Scripture Reference;** Acts 7:1-43; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Psalm 119:50
- **Questions for Reflection**
  - What are the promises of God that you need to cling to?

#### 2. Presence of God.

- **Scripture Reference;** Acts 7:1-43; Psalm 34:18
- **Questions for Reflection**
  - How have you experienced the presence of God in difficult circumstances?

#### 3. Provision of God.

- **Scripture Reference;** Acts 7:1-43; 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- **Questions for Reflection**
  - How have you been surprised by the ways God has provided in your life?

### Optional Follow-up Questions:

- What makes you say that?
- How do you feel about that?
- How would you explain your answer to a non-Christian friend or neighbor?
- Why did God design it to work that way? Why not just do (whatever else) instead?
- What would you say to someone who disagrees with that?
- Why do we really have to do it like that? Why can't we just go (some other route) instead?