

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Acts 7:1-3, 8-10, 17, 33-34, 45-48, 53

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What might you say to someone who said, “It is a waste of time to study the Old Testament”?

God included a short history of Israel from the Old Testament in Stephen’s speech in the Book of Acts. The first Church considered the Old Testament important and pointed back to Old Testament history and teachings. The New Testament includes many prophetic statements from the Old Testament. Jesus Christ fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies, and when He returns He will fulfill others. We can better understand the Old Testament if we study the truths in the New Testament, and we can better understand the New Testament if we study the truths in the Old Testament.

2. Give some reasons why Abraham was important.

He was the father of faith, and he was considered righteous because of his faith. God made a covenant regarding the Promised Land with him. God promised Abraham that his seed would bless all the nations of the earth. Jesus was the seed of Abraham who came to save God’s people from their sins, and by His life, death, and resurrection He still gives those who trust in Him the gift of eternal life.

3. Why did Joseph succeed in Egypt? How might this reason encourage others?

God was with him. When we trust in God through faith in Jesus Christ, we have the assurance that God is with us too no matter what happens.

4. From what kind of slavery did Moses and Jesus save God’s people?

Moses saved God’s people from physical slavery. Jesus saves God’s people from slavery to sin and Satan. To be free from slavery in Egypt, God’s people had to follow Moses. To be free from slavery to sin and Satan, God’s people need to follow Jesus.

5. Why is it important sometimes to study more than one English translation of the Bible?

Different translations are sometimes based on different Greek and Hebrew texts. Sometimes translators disagree on the right text or meaning of a word or phrase. Sometimes one English translation is difficult to understand and another translation helps with understanding the meaning of the Bible.

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