

# the answers to your deepest longings

BY PROVERBS 31 MINISTRIES

## Week 7

- Opposition against Jesus' followers grew, which led to the arrest and trial of Stephen. While Stephen defended the gospel and his accusers stoned him to death, he spoke these words, "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*" (Acts 7:60).
- Stephen's stoning incited widespread persecution against the Jewish Christian church. The persecuted ones grew bolder and preached the gospel everywhere they went. Philip played a vital role in the expansion of God's Kingdom.
- Saul, who ruthlessly ravaged and persecuted followers of Jesus, became God's greatest preacher and advocate after he encountered the living Christ on the Road to Damascus.
- God used Peter to turn the beliefs of the Jewish Christian church upside down — to ensure that the church knew the gospel was not just for Jews but that Jesus came to seek and save all of God's people, Jews and gentiles alike.
- Philip and Peter's faithful work exploded into a missionary era that formed the church at Antioch. This multi-ethnic church became a mighty tool in equipping and sending out missionaries, like Paul and Barnabas, who brought multitudes upon multitudes of people to Jesus.