

## Stephen's Stand



**Key Passage:** Acts 7:54-60, Stephen Is Killed

**Lesson:** Stephen was amazing at spreading the good news of Jesus. So good that it made others upset so that they began plotting to get Stephen arrested. Stephen gave a great speech to the Jewish court that made them so angry that they stoned him.

**Objective:** Kids will learn, “the Church is meant to strengthen us to face any persecution.”

**Video: Gods Story: Stephen**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4Kw27iS2ZQ>

**INTRO:**

Imagine doing what you were supposed to do, yet still getting punished. What would you think? Would it be fair? What if what you were doing was to help everyone around you? That would make it seem even more unfair. Would you keep doing it anyway?

It would be easy to stop whatever it was you were getting punished for doing, but what if someone else's life depended on you continuing? Would you face the consequences and keep doing what you were supposed to do in the first place?

**READ ACTS 7:54-60**

## Stephen's Stand

### MAIN POINT:

Stephen was a man God had called to spread the Gospel. He did just what he was supposed to do, but he angered the religious leaders. The leaders weren't living the way God wanted them to live and Stephen was honest in telling them about it. Instead of changing their ways and following God, they decided that Stephen needed to die.

Throwing stones until he died was the punishment they chose for Stephen. It wasn't fair since Stephen was doing what he was supposed to do, but Stephen didn't run or fight what was happening. He trusted God and stayed focused on him. As he was dying, he looked to heaven and saw Jesus at the right hand of God. He told the crowd, which angered the leaders even more. Even while enduring the most painful death, Stephen faced persecution and kept sharing about Jesus.

### DRIVE IT HOME:

We may not be stoned in this day and time, but there are other ways we are persecuted. We may be ridiculed or bullied for what we believe, making it easy to hide and stay quiet. However, when others pray for us and when we pray for others, God will take care of us. We have to keep our focus on Him.

In times of persecution, having a group of people who believe in us, support us, and pray for us will keep us going, no matter what else is going on. Then, when we see someone else struggling with persecution, we can do the same for them. This is the way it's supposed to be. Being there for each other, especially when times are hard.

### Parent/Child Chat: K - 2nd grade

#### Acts 7:54-60

Who was mad at Stephen?  
What did Stephen see when he looked to heaven?  
Why did the leaders put their hands over their ears?  
What did they do to Stephen?  
Was Stephen mad at the people who killed him?

### Parent/Child Chat: 3rd - 8th grade

#### Acts 7:54-60

Why were the religious leaders mad at Stephen?  
What did the Scripture say Stephen was full of?  
Why do you think Stephen could see into heaven?  
Why did the leaders take Stephen out of the city?  
Where did the leaders take their coats?  
Why do you think Stephen asked God to not charge the leaders with what they had done to him?

### PARENT TIME:

#### What you need to know:

Kids face different types of persecution for their faith. Ask God to help your children turn to him when things like this happen.

### CRAFT:

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Blank cards or card stock paper

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose a missionary for your family to support. Have your child(ren) make a card to encourage the missionary and mail it to them.