

Journal Page

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What do you think Stephen valued most?
- What do you value most?
- How can we show we value Jesus in our lives?



Stephen's Address

Acts 6:8–7:60

MAIN POINT: STEPHEN WAS NOT AFRAID TO DIE SO THAT OTHERS WOULD HEAR ABOUT JESUS.

One of Jesus' followers was named Stephen. One day, some Jews came and began to argue with Stephen. The Holy Spirit helped Stephen speak with wisdom.

The Jews decided to lie about Stephen. The people dragged Stephen to the Jewish court.

Stephen began to preach about Jesus. He started by reminding the Jews about Abraham. He reminded them about Joseph and Moses. When God's people lived in Egypt, God called Moses to rescue His people from Pharaoh. Moses led God's people away from Egypt, but they turned against Moses and against God.

God did not give up on His people, though. He was working out a plan.

Stephen told them these stories to explain that Jesus was the Messiah God had promised! But just like their ancestors rejected and killed the prophets in the Old Testament, these Jewish leaders had rejected Jesus and murdered Him!

Stephen's words made the Jewish leaders so angry! Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he looked up into heaven. Stephen saw Jesus standing there.

The Jewish leaders screamed at the top of their lungs. They threw Stephen out of the city and began to throw stones at him. As they were stoning him, Stephen called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then Stephen knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" After saying this, Stephen died.

Christ Connection: Stephen was killed because he was a Christian. Jesus was crucified, and He told His followers that they would be persecuted—hated, hurt, or even killed—for loving Him. Jesus also said that those who suffer for Him would be blessed. (Matthew 5:11) We can face suffering in this life because Jesus suffered first. He died and then rose again, and He is waiting for us in heaven.

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