

July 18, 2021

Stephen, The First Martyr

Session 7



TWEEN MINISTRY

5TH - 6TH GRADE

Howdy,

Well, we are almost half-way through our summer Explore the Bible series. We hope everyone is enjoying your summertime off.

This week's lesson "**Stephen, The First Martyr**" we learn about a man the church chose to take care of the needs of widows so the apostles could focus on preaching and teaching the Scripture. This man was Stephen. Stephen was a "man full of faith and the Holy Spirit."

Here are this week's random questions:

1. Question 766: Have you ever done something and had no idea why you did it, what was it? *Way too many to count! hahaha*
2. Question 1030: Something you keep close to your heart? *My family.*
3. Question 1255: Do you believe in destiny, fate or free will? *Good question!!!!*

Bible Passage: Acts 6-7

Memory Verse: Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Bible Verse: 1 Peter 4:19

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Text Truth: Christians are called to share the truth of Jesus in difficult places and with difficult people.

Bible Skills Spotlight: Identifies prominent Bible people by the books in which their stories are recorded. Applies biblical principles to personal and social issues.

GRAB YOUR BIBLE AND OPEN TO THE BOOK OF ACTS 6-7

Stephen was a follower of Jesus. When the church needed helpers to take care of the widows so the disciples could teach about Jesus, Stephen was chosen to help. Stephen has a good reputation and was full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.

Now Stephen was performing miracles among the people. A group from one the synagogues gathered to argue with Stephen. They could not win. Stephen had more wisdom, and the Holy Spirit was helping him.

So the men decided to create trouble for Stephen. They spread lies about Stephen and his teaching.

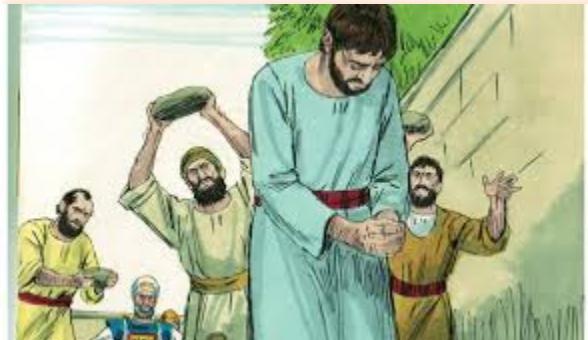
A group of religious leaders found Stephen and dragged him to the Sanhedrin. False witnesses came and lied about Stephen. The Sanhedrin looked at Stephen and saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Stephen, The First Martyr

The high priest began to question Stephen. Stephen reminded the people about Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and Joshua. Then Stephen told the men that they were like their ancestors. They were always resisting God and persecuting the men God send to lead and teach His people. Stephen told the people that they did not obey God's law. The religious leaders became very, very angry.

Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He gazed into heaven and saw God's glory. Stephen saw Jesus at the right hand of God and he told the people, "Look! I see heaven and the Son of Man standing beside God."

The religious leaders screamed in anger and attached Stephen. They took him outside the city and began to throw stone at him. While they stoned



him, Stephen called out, "Lord, receive my spirit! Lord, do not charge them with this sin." Then he died.

READ ACTS

- **Stephen chooses as a servant of the church (Acts 6:1-7)**
- **Stephen arrested (Acts 6:8-15)**
- **Stephen preached to the Sanhedrin (Acts 7:1-53)**
- **Stephen was stoned to death (Acts 7:54-60)**

"We call Stephen a **martyr**. A **martyr** is a person who is killed because of his faith."

Memorize this Text Truth: Christians are called to share the truth of Jesus in difficult places and with difficult people.

"People told lies about Stephen and arrested him because they did not like that he was sharing the gospel. But he did not stop preaching or sharing the love of Jesus. How can we share the love of Jesus with people around us, even when we don't like the way they act?"

Here is a good video summary of today's lesson about Stephen.

<https://youtu.be/n5nGHmH6PeA>

PRAYER

Today, over 100 million Christians in over 60 nations are being persecuted for their faith. Approximately 60% of persecuted Christians are children.

"Remember God IS with you always and He hears your prayers."

If you have any prayer requests, please send them to cameronfamily10@gmail.com.

Remember to LAUGH, have a blessed week, watch or come to church Sunday morning, and remember

GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO WE.

Larry and Steve