

Learn from the Past

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the blanks under each picture to number the Bible story people in chronological order.



Joseph



David



Elijah



Jesus



Moses



Abraham

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Stephen loved God, and God used Him to do incredible things.
- Religious leaders argued with Stephen about Jesus.
- Stephen told the truth about Jesus, but the leaders hated what he said.
- Stephen preached about Jesus no matter what, even when facing death.

KEY PASSAGE: Romans 12:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How might we suffer because of our belief in Jesus?
- Why is Jesus worth any suffering we may face?
- How can we love people who don't believe the gospel?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Research areas of the world where Christians face severe persecution. Lead your family in praying for the persecuted church to be bold.



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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 blessings do we look forward to as followers of Jesus?
- Have you ever faced suffering or persecution because of your faith? How did you react or how would you react?
- Do you ever feel afraid or embarrassed to talk about Jesus? Why or why not?

Stephen's Sermon

Acts 6-7

STORY POINT: STEPHEN PREACHED ABOUT JESUS NO MATTER WHAT.

Stephen was one of Jesus' followers. One day, some Jews began to argue with Stephen. The Holy Spirit helped Stephen speak with wisdom. The Jews lied about Stephen; they said he had spoken against God. The people dragged Stephen to the Jewish court and told more lies.

Stephen began to preach about Jesus. He reminded the court about Abraham. God had made promises to Abraham and his son Isaac. He reminded them about Joseph and Moses. God was working out a plan. God worked through Joshua and David and Solomon.

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. He looked up to heaven and saw Jesus standing there at the right hand of God.

The Jewish leaders rushed at Stephen. They threw him out of the city and began throwing stones at him. Stephen called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then he said, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" After this, Stephen died.

Christ Connection: Stephen was killed because he was a Christian. Jesus 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. 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.



FOLD

Found favor with God and wanted to build a temple (Acts 7:46)

Called by God to lead God's people out of Egypt (Acts 7:35-36)

Called by God to leave his home and go to the promised land (Acts 7:2-3)

Sold into slavery in Egypt but became a great ruler (Acts 7:9-10)

Built a temple for the Lord (Acts 7:47)

Sent his sons to Egypt to find food during a famine (Acts 7:11-12)



Abraham



Jacob



David



Joseph



Moses



Solomon

Historical Figures

Match each person with the correct description.

Stephen Quiz

Circle the correct answer for each statement or question.

Stephen was one of _____ men chosen to serve in the church. (Acts 6:3)

7	10
12	40

The Holy Spirit helped Stephen speak with _____. (Acts 6:10)

anger	wisdom
gentleness	lies

What is *blasphemy*? (Acts 6:11)

keeping silent in court	preaching about Jesus
studying the Bible	speaking against God

Stephen's face looked like the face of an _____. (Acts 6:15)

donkey	angel
demon	judge

Stephen accused the Jewish leaders of _____ Jesus. (Acts 7:52)

worshipping	murdering
obeying	loving

Whom did Stephen see standing at the right hand of God? (Acts 7:56)

Joseph	Moses
the Son of Man	John the Baptist

What did Stephen ask God to do to his enemies? (Acts 7:60)

forgive them	kill them
punish them	ignore them