

STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US EVEN WHEN WE ARE MISTREATED FOR SHARING THE GOSPEL.

STEPHEN STATUE

Stephen was a Hellenistic Jew who became a follower of Jesus. Stephen was wise and full of the Holy Spirit. He loved God and loved people so much, he became a deacon and took care of the widows in his community.

Through God's power, **STEPHEN PERFORMED MIRACLES and SHARED THE GOSPEL OF JESUS.** However, Stephen's teachings were not accepted among the religious leaders, and Stephen was **MARTYRED-KILLED FOR HIS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.**

This statue of Stephen is located in Florence, Italy. It reminds people of Stephen's story, found in **ACTS 6-7.** Stephen teaches us that **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US** even when we are mistreated for sharing the gospel.

STEPHEN'S GATE—ALSO KNOWN AS THE LION'S GATE—IS IN THE EASTERN WALL OF THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM. IT GOT ITS NAME BECAUSE STEPHEN WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN MARTYRED IN THE VALLEY JUST OUTSIDE THE GATE.

STEPHEN SERVED

Stephen and the other deacons served the widows in their community by making sure the women had enough food to eat.

Today, deacons still serve by helping pastors care for people in the church community and by sharing the love of Jesus with others.

DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE A MINISTRY TO SHARE FOOD WITH PEOPLE IN NEED? WHAT OTHER WAYS DOES YOUR CHURCH SERVE OTHERS?

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



BIBLE PASSAGE:
ACTS 6-7

MEMORY VERSE:
ACTS 1:8

MODERN MISSIONARY MARTYRS

God is good and trustworthy, and God is always with us even when we are mistreated for sharing the gospel. But even though God is always with us, sometimes His people suffer greatly for their faith.

Like Stephen who faithfully cried out to God as he was killed, these modern-day missionaries were martyred for their faith in Jesus.

TAKE A MOMENT TO PRAY
SILENTLY FOR MISSIONARIES ALL
AROUND THE WORLD. ASK GOD
TO HELP THEM REMEMBER THAT
HE IS ALWAYS WITH THEM.



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT LYING?

The religious leaders convinced some men to tell lies about Stephen. The same thing happened to Jesus when He was arrested. Have you ever heard someone say they only told a "little white lie?" We try to make excuses for our sin, but the Bible says that all sin is equally wrong. Match each Scripture with the correct summary of what the verse reveals to us about lying.

EXODUS 20:16

CHRISTIANS SHOULD
NOT LIE BECAUSE THEY
ARE BECOMING MORE
LIKE JESUS.

EPHESIANS 4:25

GOD CANNOT LIE.

COLOSSIANS 3:9-10

STOP LYING. SPEAK
THE TRUTH.

TITUS 1:2

DO NOT LIE ABOUT
YOUR NEIGHBOR.

REJECTED LEADERS

Stephen reminded the religious leaders that the Israelites had a history of rejecting the leaders God sent them. Decode the name of each of the leaders that the Israelites resisted obeying. Then pick one leader and look up the Scripture reference to discover how the people treated that leader.

CODE

1=Z, 2=Y, 3=X, 4=W, 5=V, 6=U, 7=T, 8=S, 9=R, 10=Q,
11=P, 12=O, 13=N, 14=M, 15=L, 16=K, 17=J, 18=I, 19=H,
20=G, 21=F, 22=E, 23=D, 24=C, 25=B, 26=A

14	12	8	22	8	EXODUS 16:1-3							
17	12	8	19	6	26	&	24	26	15	22	25	NUMBERS 14:5-10
22	15	18	17	26	19	1 KINGS 19:1-2						
17	22	9	22	14	18	26	19	JEREMIAH 38:6-13				
8	7	22	11	19	22	13	ACTS 6:8-15					