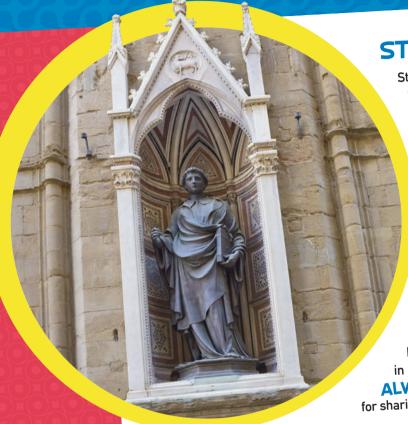
# STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

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



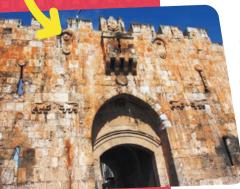
# STEPHEN STATUE

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 MARTYREDKILLED 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.



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.

KAR

DAVID MCDONNALL LARRY & JEAN ELLIOTT KAREN WATSON IRAQ

YEMEN

J. LANDRUM HOLMES

PILL KOEHN
KATHY GARIETY
MARTHA MYERS

PHILIPPINES
WILLIAM HYDE

### 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** 

**ECUADOR** 

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