

Stephen, the Unwavering Martyr

Devotional Reading: [Luke 23:32-43](#)

Background Scripture: [Acts 6-7](#)

[Acts 6:7-10](#)

7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

9 Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

[Acts 7:54-60](#)

54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

55 But he, being full of the Holy

Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.



Key Text

Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.—Acts 6:8

p 418 The Testimony of Faithful Witnesses

Unit 3: Faithful Witnesses Spread the Good News

Lessons 9–13

Lesson Aims

After participating in this lesson, each learner will be able to:

1. Recount the story of Stephen’s courageous witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.
2. Describe the parallels that Acts draws between Stephen and Jesus.
3. Write a way that Stephen’s courageous witness may inform their own witness to Jesus Christ.

Lesson Outline

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B. Lesson Context

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Punch Back

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A. Opposition and Response

B. Prayer

C. Thought to Remember

p 419 How to Say It

Alexandrians	Al-ex-an-dree-unz.
Cyrenians	Sigh-ree-nee-unz.
Hellenistic	Heh-leh-nihs-tic.
Libertines	Lib-er-teens.
Pentecost	Pent-ih-kost.
Sadducees	Sad-you-seez.
Sanhedrin	San-huh-drun or San-heed-run.

p 418 Introduction

A. Handling the Hardships

Max Cleland (1942–2021) led a promising life. In high school, he excelled in sports and received the title of “Most Outstanding Senior.” At the age of 24, he volunteered for combat duty in Vietnam,

where he served as a captain in the army.

Just one month before returning home, Cleland picked up a grenade that he thought he had dropped accidentally. He was mistaken, and the resulting explosion mangled or altogether severed his right hand, right leg, and left leg. Though not expected to survive, Cleland recovered from his triple amputation, and he recalled the apostle Paul's teaching that hope "maketh not ashamed" ([Romans 5:5](#)).

When Cleland returned to civilian life, he entered politics, learned to drive a car specially equipped for him, and traveled extensively to mobilize support for veterans' causes. At age 34 he became the youngest man ever to head the Veterans Administration. Later, he was elected as a US senator from Georgia. Max Cleland summarized his experience: "Life doesn't revolve around an arm and a leg. People look at you the way you look at yourself."

Today's lesson presents a servant of God who faced a catastrophic blow. It was a blow that led directly to his death. The story of God's servants is stained with the blood of prophets and apostles who paid the price for speaking the truth, and today's lesson presents this reality in vivid detail.

B. Lesson Context

The book of Acts begins the story of the earliest church by focusing on its development within Jerusalem. The theme of "witnesses" in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth ([Acts 1:8](#)) is like of a "Table of Contents" for Acts as it sketches the birth of the church. The narrative starts with events on the Day of Pentecost ([2:1–41](#)). Predominant in the account is the divine power behind the dynamic Jerusalem fellowship. The church increased in number from only about 120 believers to more than 3,000 in a single day (compare [1:15](#); [2:41](#)).

p 419 The number of believers in Jerusalem continued to increase over the weeks and months after Pentecost ([Acts 2:47b](#); [5:14](#); [6:1](#)). The expanding number of believers led them to develop habits for their gatherings and expectations for how they would treat each other ([2:42–47a](#); [4:32–35](#)). During that time, almost all followers of Jesus were of Jewish heritage. However, not all had the same cultural upbringing. Some had adopted elements of Greek culture while living in the Greek-speaking (Hellenistic) portions of the Roman Empire (compare [9:29](#)), while others lived in Jewish regions of Palestine. The distinction between Grecian Jews and Hebraic Jews was

revealed in a conflict regarding the treatment of widows (6:1).

To resolve conflict, the Twelve selected seven men “full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom” to handle food distribution to the needy. These men included Stephen (Acts 6:3–5).

I. The Growing Church (Acts 6:7–10)

A. Disciples and Priests (v. 7)

7. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

This verse highlights two important aspects of the growth of the first-century church. First, its development is driven by the dramatic spread of *the word of God* (compare Acts 9:31; 12:24; 19:20; 28:31). As the influence of the gospel message increases among people, so does *the number of the disciples*. When the gospel falls on willing hearts, spiritual fruit results, often in abundant measures (see Luke 8:8, 15).

Second, the fact that the church’s number *multiplied ... greatly* implies rapid growth. A comparison of the number of believers in the early chapters of Acts highlights this expansion (Acts 1:15; 2:41;

4:4; see also 2:47; 5:14; 6:1; 16:5).

Counted among these believers are numerous *priests*. These men serve in the temple when their lot is chosen (example: Luke 1:5, 8–10). We may find this surprising since chief priests opposed Jesus and His message in conjunction with both Pharisees (Matthew 21:45; 27:62; John 7:32, 45; 11:47, 57; 18:3) and Sadducees (Acts 4:1–4; 5:17–18, 27–28).

What Do You Think?

What steps can you take to ensure that the Word of God spreads through your family and community?

Digging Deeper

To what extent does the Word of God spread through the Spirit’s work, and to what extent does it spread through human effort?

B. Power and Wonder (v. 8)

8. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

The display of miracles that accredit Jesus of Nazareth (Acts 2:22) and confirm the message of the apostles (2:43; 5:12) now also certify God’s approval of the ministry of *Stephen*. These signs confirm the presence of God’s grace and the empowerment of His servants (2 Corinthians 12:12).

The book of Acts does not specify the nature of Stephen's miraculous work *among the people*. His calling before this was to be one of seven men to oversee a first-century version of "Meals on Wheels" (see [Acts 6:1–4](#)). We presume that Stephen's ministry in that regard did not involve miracles. Therefore, the *great wonders and miracles* he now performs indicate relief from suffering from both physical and spiritual ailments, as has been true of the apostles (compare [3:1–10](#); [4:30](#); [5:15–16](#)). Although he is not one of the apostles, Stephen is chosen by God to bear witness to salvation (compare [Hebrews 2:3–4](#)). As one who is "*full of faith*" [p 420](#) and of the Holy Ghost" ([Acts 6:5](#)), his life demonstrates the spiritual power that Jesus promised ([1:8](#)).

What Do You Think?

In what ways can believers develop spiritual power?

Digging Deeper

How can mature believers leverage their spiritual power to encourage the growth of newer believers?

C. Wisdom and Spirit (vv. [9–10](#))

9. Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of

them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

After the exile of 586 BC, the need for synagogues arose among the Jewish people. By the time of the first century AD, synagogues served as important meeting places for observing religious practices, studying Scripture, gathering on the Sabbath, and discussing Jewish law and tradition (examples: [Matthew 4:23](#); [Acts 9:20](#); [13:14–15](#); [15:21](#)). Additionally, synagogues were places for financial contribution, elementary education, and hospitality.

More than one *synagogue* may be in view here. Commentators suggest the writer could be considering anywhere from one to five synagogues, although most tend to lean toward one or two. Paul refers to multiple synagogues in Jerusalem ([Acts 24:11–12](#)). Therefore, the groups mentioned in this verse may attend different synagogues.

Nonetheless, they all had a specific dispute with Stephen.

Libertines are Jews who have been liberated from slavery or who are descendants of those freed; these differ from freeborn citizens who never experienced enslavement. The *Cyrenians* and *Alexandrians* are from what is modern-day North Africa, and *Cilicia*

and *Asia* are regions located in what is modern-day Turkey. The mention of these groups heightens anticipation for the movement of the gospel from Jerusalem and its surrounding areas to all nations and peoples ([Acts 1:8](#); [2:5–12](#)).

[Acts 6:11–14](#) indicates that the dispute with Stephen is likely over his interpretation of the Law of Moses and the relevance of the temple. The result is a charge of blasphemy, a charge that Jesus Himself faced ([Matthew 26:65](#); [Mark 14:64](#)).

10. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

The fact that the synagogue members could not *resist* Stephen does not mean that they agreed with his message; rather, it indicates their inability to refute his teachings. Their powerlessness fulfills Jesus' promise to give His persecuted disciples "a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist" ([Luke 21:15](#)). Such fulfillment suggests that Stephen's wisdom was given to him by Jesus Himself, undoubtedly through His Spirit (compare [12:11–12](#)).

What Do You Think?

What steps will you take to ensure your speech is filled with wisdom?

Digging Deeper

How do [Proverbs 15:1–2](#); [Ephesians 4:29–32](#); [Colossians 4:5–6](#); and [James 1:19](#); [3:13–18](#) inform your answer?

II. The Faithful Martyr ([Acts 7:54–60](#))

The conflict between Stephen and the synagogue members escalates. False accusations lead to Stephen's arrest and trial before the Sanhedrin ([Acts 6:11–15](#)). Stephen, speaking in his defense, emphasizes Israel's history of rebellion against God. In that regard, Stephen lodges at least four countercharges: the Jewish leaders (1) are "stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears" ([7:51](#)); (2) resist the Holy Spirit ([7:51](#)); (3) have betrayed and murdered the Messiah and His prophets ([7:52](#)); and (4) have not obeyed the Law of Moses ([7:53](#)).

A. Furious Reaction (v. 54)

54. When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

The word *they* refers to the members of the Sanhedrin ([Acts 6:15](#)), the highest Jewish council in Palestine. It was led by the high priest ([5:21](#), [27](#); [7:1](#); [23:2](#)) and was composed of priests, rulers, p 421 elders, and teachers of the law, as well as

and teachers of the law, as well as Sadducees and Pharisees (4:5, 23; 5:21, 34; 23:6).

These things include everything that Stephen has spoken in his lengthy speech found in Acts 7:2–53, especially the last three of those verses. His words provoke a sharp reaction from the Sanhedrin. The expression *cut to the heart* conveys their intense anger or rage (compare Acts 5:33). A similar expression also occurs in Acts 2:37, but the Greek wording is different, expressing bewilderment. The phrase *gnashed ... with their teeth* signifies a corresponding behavior or facial expression. We see increasing hostility on their part as we trace their reactions from Acts 4:1–22 to 5:27–42 to 7:54–58. Their anger escalates as the story unfolds.

B. Fervent Realization (vv. 55–56)

55. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God.

Stephen, like Moses, is granted the privilege of witnessing God's *glory* (compare Exodus 33:18–23). To be seated at *the right hand* is considered to be in a place of honor (Psalm 110:1 [quoted in Acts 2:34 and Hebrews 1:13]; Matthew

26:64; Luke 22:69; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3). But we note that Stephen sees *Jesus standing*, not sitting, at that position. At least three interpretations have been proposed. One theory is that it indicates Jesus' transcendence, meaning that He is supernatural and surpasses creaturely boundaries. A second interpretation is that Jesus is rising from His throne to welcome Stephen into heaven. A third interpretation proposes that it signifies His readiness to judge, either in support of Stephen or against the Sanhedrin—or both (compare Isaiah 3:13). Indeed, this imagery may embrace all three ideas.

56. And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

A vital turning point occurs. On rare occasions, Scripture mentions *the heavens* being *opened* (compare Ezekiel 1:1; Matthew 3:16; Luke 3:21; John 1:51; Acts 10:11; Revelation 4:1). That is no less the case here when we compare the last line of Acts 7:55 (above) with the last line in the verse now before us.

Stephen replaces the name "Jesus" with the designation *the Son of man*. This title was Jesus' favorite self-designation during His earthly ministry. It appears more than 80 times in the Gospels and is

associated with Jesus' authority, judgment, and role in salvation (compare [Matthew 26:64](#); [Mark 14:62](#); [Luke 12:8](#); [22:69](#)). This title can be traced to [Daniel 7:13–14](#). Thus Stephen recognizes Jesus as the divine and promised Messiah, something the doubters don't do (compare [John 12:34](#)).

Tied to this revelation is the fact that Stephen sees Jesus sharing in God's presence and glory. His acknowledgment of the divinity of Jesus cannot be missed.

Stephen has avoided making direct statements about Christ up to this point. Now Stephen directly associates Christ with God Himself, a confession he knows will not help his case before the Sanhedrin. Jesus was previously convicted of blasphemy by this group for making similar associations with God ([Matthew 26:64–65](#); [Luke 22:69–71](#)). One can only admire Stephen's courage in the face of deadly opposition.

What Do You Think?

How does this passage expand your understanding of Jesus' role as an advocate for believers?

Digging Deeper

How does Stephen's vision of Christ's authority and transcendence encourage your faithfulness to Christ?

The Worst of Times

One late autumn day, it felt like everything in my life was going wrong. Our family's plans for the future had crumbled, and we found ourselves searching for jobs. We desperately sought any glimpse of the hope we had lost.

I began taking walks through our neighborhood, praying, crying, and asking God to fix our situation. Over time, those walks became sacred to me. As I walked, I realized I was not alone: God's presence was with me. The more I poured my heart out to Him in prayer, the more I noticed His peace.

I haven't experienced a day like Stephen did in [p 422 Acts 7](#). But when I read his story, I see that God's presence was with him on his worst day—just as God has been with me time and time again through the most challenging seasons of my life.

On your most difficult days, do you experience the comforting and strengthening presence of God's Spirit? If not, why not?

—B. R.

C. Fateful Reaction (vv. [57–60](#))

[57–58a](#). Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned

him.

What started as a trial based on false witnesses ([Acts 6:13](#)) ends with deadly mob violence. The Jewish leaders sentenced Jesus to death after their perception of blasphemy ([Matthew 26:65–66](#); compare [John 10:31–33](#)). Death by stoning is indeed the proper Old Testament punishment for blasphemy ([Leviticus 24:10–16](#)). But the members of the Sanhedrin refuse to consider evidence of Jesus' divinity as they cover *their ears*.

Their *loud* voices drown out Stephen's perceived blasphemies (see [Acts 6:11](#)). All pretense of due process is out the window as the Jewish leaders act on their belief that Stephen's conviction means he deserves immediate death. We expect mob action from unruly crowds ([Ezekiel 16:40](#); [John 10:22–39](#)) but not from the members of the Sanhedrin!

Ironically, Stephen previously accused these leaders of having “uncircumcised” ears, unwilling to hear the truth ([Acts 7:51](#); compare [Jeremiah 6:10](#)). Their actions reflect precisely this unwillingness. If they had circumcised ears and hearts ([Deuteronomy 10:16](#); [30:6](#); [Romans 2:29](#)), they would respond with faith and repentance (compare [Acts 2:37–41](#); [4:4](#)).

However, as the Jewish leaders

acknowledge in the case of Jesus, Roman law reserved the imposition of capital punishment for itself ([John 18:31](#)). Therefore, as the religious leaders rush to execute Stephen, they are simultaneously misapplying the Law of Moses and breaking the Roman legal code.

58b. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

The *witnesses* are likely the “false witnesses” whose accusations Stephen just addressed ([Acts 6:13–14](#); [7:2–53](#)). Furthermore, their laying *down their clothes* is practical rather than symbolic; it allows them to throw stones more easily and avoid staining their clothes with blood.

The text introduces a new character, a young man named *Saul*. The note that Stephen's executioners place their clothes at Saul's *feet* suggests that he has a position of authority among the Jews (compare [Acts 4:35, 37](#); [5:2](#)). This detail supports the fact that he approves the execution ([8:1](#); [9:1–2](#); [22:20](#)).

While Stephen's speech likely had little immediate impact on Saul, the arguments about the law and the temple will become foundational to Saul's ministry as he becomes known as Paul ([Acts 13:9](#)). He too will be attacked by an

angry mob in Jerusalem (21:27) and have to defend himself against charges involving the law and the temple (25:8), not to mention being stoned himself (14:19; compare 2 Corinthians 11:25). Stephen's speech thus will be echoed in ways he does not live to see. Saul's memory of this day will not fade (Acts 22:20).

It is worth noting that there are two references to Saul's age in the New Testament. The designation *young* can indicate an age between 18 and 40, according to the use of that word at that time. At this point, he is young, while in Philemon 9, he is "aged."

59. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

In prayer, Stephen once again acknowledges Jesus' lordship and divinity. By asking the Lord to *receive my spirit*, Stephen affirms the Christian hope of living with Christ after death. Stephen's prayer also echoes the Lord's final words on the cross: "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46; compare Psalm 31:5).

60. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

This element of Stephen's prayer echoes Jesus' prayer on the cross in Luke 23:34 to forgive the executioners. By requesting this, Stephen follows Jesus' teaching to "love your enemies" and "pray for them which despitefully use you" (Luke 6:27–28). In word and deed, Stephen's steadfast witness exemplifies what it means to follow the crucified and risen Messiah (compare 9:23).

p 423 The sobering episode concludes as Stephen falls *asleep*—a metaphor for death (compare 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18). Jesus' disciples were often confused by His use of figurative language (examples: Mark 7:17–18; 8:14–21; John 11:11–15; 16:25–30). But there's no mistaking what is happening here.

What Do You Think?

How can we cultivate a heart of forgiveness and love for those who hurt us?

Digging Deeper

What practical steps can you take to show forgiveness to someone who has wronged you, even if they haven't sought reconciliation?

Punch Back

When I was a little girl, my brother and I would play a game during car rides. We'd look for Volkswagen Beetles, or

“punch buggies” as we called them. The first person to spot a punch buggy was allowed to punch the other person in the arm. We often added a disclaimer as we punched: “Punch buggy! No punch backs!” As you might imagine, fists frequently flew in the backseat of my parents’ vehicle, and revenge hits were part of the game. Pretty soon, we weren’t looking for Volkswagens; we were looking for retaliation against each other.

As Stephen faced death, he didn’t cry out for revenge against his killers. He didn’t call others to “punch back” in revenge. Instead, he followed Jesus’ example by asking God to forgive his murderers and offering up his spirit to the Lord.

When was the last time you asked God to forgive your enemies rather than retaliate against them?

—B. R.

Conclusion

A. Opposition and Response

Stephen’s suffering was not in vain. The tragedy of his death led to the spread of the gospel ([Acts 8:1–8](#)). His Spirit-filled obedience to Christ empowered him to act selflessly in the face of unfair objection. As a result, Stephen is a model of courage in the face of opposition.



Visual for [Lesson 10](#). Display this visual as you ask the class to list attributes of a faithful witness to Christ Jesus.

Followers of Jesus can expect opposition—possibly even *bitter* opposition—from others. Stephen faced fierce resistance from many of his fellow Jews. Synagogue members argued with him, false witnesses testified against him, and religious leaders responded with murderous rage. The actions taken against Stephen remind us of Jesus’ promises to His disciples: “If [unbelievers] have persecuted me, they will also persecute you” ([John 15:20](#)).

When faced with opposition, we can follow Stephen’s example and respond with wisdom, love, and a reliance on God’s Spirit. God’s Spirit and wisdom filled Stephen, which allowed him to present such compelling arguments that no one could effectively counter or refute. And though he rebuked his fellow Jews, he did so out of love and a desire for

them to repent and believe in Christ. Indeed, Stephen loved his opponents even to his death, courageously defending the gospel and graciously praying for their forgiveness. The Lord expects nothing less from us today ([Luke 6:27–36](#); [1 Peter 3:15–16](#)).

B. Prayer

Father God, empower us to be courageous witnesses to Your Son in our own settings. Enable us to respond to opposition with as much wisdom, love, and dependence on the Spirit as possible. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

C. Thought to Remember

Respond to opposition as Jesus and Stephen did.

p 424 Involvement Learning

Enhance your lesson with KJV Bible Student (from your curriculum supplier) and the reproducible activity page (at www.standardlesson.com or in the back of the KJV Standard Lesson Commentary Deluxe Edition).

Into the Lesson

Ask participants to brainstorm the commitments, responsibilities, and

preferences that “fill up” their time, energy, and attention. (Possible examples: God, family, work, church, volunteering, sports, etc.) Write responses on the board.

Alternative. Distribute copies of the “Filled Up” exercise from the activity page, which you can download. Have participants complete it individually in a minute or less before discussing their conclusions.

Lead into Bible study by saying, “Various commitments, responsibilities, and preferences fill our lives. When we encounter difficult circumstances, the priorities that ‘fill’ us will ‘spill out’ and become evident to those around us. In today’s study, pay attention to how a moment of testing reveals Stephen’s priorities.”

Into the Word

Prior to class, recruit a volunteer to give a three-minute presentation on Stephen’s life and ministry. Encourage the volunteer to read [Acts 6:1–8:3](#) and use online resources for preparation. The presentation should address how Stephen was chosen for ministry, the main points of his speech before the Sanhedrin, and the consequences of his death.

Announce a Bible-marking activity.

Provide copies of [Acts 6:7–10](#) and [7:54–60](#) for those who prefer not to write in their Bibles. Provide handouts (you create) with these instructions:

- Underline any words or phrases that describe Stephen.
- Double underline any words or phrases that describe the actions of Stephen's opposition.
- Draw a circle around any mention of or allusion to God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.
- Draw a question mark around any words or phrases you want to study further.

Slowly read the Scripture aloud (or ask volunteers to do so) at least twice and as many as four times. As the Scripture is read, class members should mark their copies in the ways noted.

After the final reading, divide the class into pairs to discuss the following questions: 1—What words or phrases describe Stephen? 2—What words or phrases describe the actions of his opposition? 3—Why do you think they were “not able to resist” his wisdom ([Acts 7:10](#))? 4—What words or phrases describe God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit? 5—How did those in power respond to the Spirit's work in Stephen? 6—What was the impact of the Spirit's wisdom through Stephen?

Option. Divide participants into three groups and assign each group one of the following Scripture passages: [Luke 22:66–70](#); [Luke 23:33–34](#); and [Luke 23:46](#). Instruct groups to compare their assigned passage to [Acts 7:54–60](#). Ask the following questions for in-group discussion: 1—How are the accounts of Stephen's execution and Jesus' crucifixion similar and different? 2—In what ways did Stephen's understanding of Jesus' suffering help him endure his own suffering?

Alternative. Distribute copies of the “Good News and Bad News” exercise from the activity page. Have participants work in small groups to complete as indicated before discussing responses and conclusions with the whole class.

Into Life

Ask participants to work with a partner to identify aspects of Stephen's example and witness that might strengthen their discipleship to Jesus. Ask, “How can you apply Stephen's example to your life and relationships?” Encourage pairs to brainstorm at least three examples.

Distribute an index card and pen to each participant and ask them to write down how Stephen's courageous witness may inspire their own witness to Jesus

Christ in the coming week. After a minute of individual reflection, invite volunteers to share their responses.

To print the reproducible activity page, simply click the highlighted text below to create a pdf file on your hard drive. Then open the pdf file in Acrobat Reader and print.

Activity Page (August 9: Stephen, the Unwavering Martyr)

Stephen, the Unwavering Martyr

Lesson 10, Acts 6:7–10; 7:54–60, KJV

Filled Up

Consider how you fill your time throughout a typical day. Below, write down the number of hours or partial hours you spend on the following activities. The total should add up to 24 hours.

_____ Eating	_____ Working	_____ Using social media
_____ Praying	_____ Browsing the Internet	_____ Engaging with family/
_____ Sleeping	_____ Completing household	_____ friends
_____ Commuting	_____ chores	_____ Studying/Meditating
_____ Watching TV	_____ Attending classes/	_____ on the Bible
_____ Volunteering	_____ meetings	_____ Other:

24 Total Hours

On which activity do you spend the most time? _____
On which activity do you spend the least time? _____
Which activity do you want to lessen? _____
Which activity do you want to increase? _____
What do you find surprising after doing this inventory? _____

Good News and Bad News

Read each passage and summarize the "good news" and "bad news" mentioned in each passage.

PART A

1. GOOD NEWS: Acts 6:7–8 _____
2. BAD NEWS: Acts 6:9 _____
3. GOOD NEWS: Acts 6:10 _____

PART B

1. BAD NEWS: Acts 7:54 _____
2. GOOD NEWS: Acts 7:55–56 _____
3. BAD NEWS: Acts 7:57–58 _____
4. BAD NEWS/GOOD NEWS: Acts 7:59–60 _____

Do you think the good news outweighed the bad news, or vice versa, and why?

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