

THE STORY OF STEPHEN

Stephen was killed because he followed God. Listen to this story of the first Christian martyr.

Let's Get Started

Episode Theme: Reflecting God- The Holy Spirit Builds the Early Church

1. [Isaiah 41:10](#) says, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God." That is so comforting! When have you been afraid and felt God's comfort? Did that change the way you felt?
2. Stephen was one of the first leaders in the early church. He shared his faith with everyone he met, which made the religious rulers hate him and put him in danger. However, he was reassured by the fact that God was with him always and to the very end. As you listen to this episode, think about how God is always there for you, even when you feel most afraid.

Memory Verse

"Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people."

Acts 6:8

After You Listen

After Jesus went into heaven, his disciples and many other faithful followers continued to work tirelessly at sharing the story of the good news of Jesus. There were still many who hated Jesus and anyone who believed in him. Stephen was one of those followers who bravely shared the story of Jesus even when it meant danger to himself. He courageously gave up his life to share the good news. Through all these difficult times, the Holy Spirit was with Stephen to give him strength, courage, and peace.

In [Hebrews 13:5](#) it says, "Never will I leave you. Never will I forsake you." It is such a comfort to remember this when things get really tough. God has given you this promise! The Holy Spirit will give you courage and strength to face whatever difficulties may come your way. If God is for you, who can be against you? ([Romans 8:31](#))

To read the full story about how Stephen gave his life for his faith in God, see [Acts 6: 8-15](#) and [Acts 7](#). Want to dig deeper and learn more about God's promise to be with you always? Check out [Psalm 27:1, 1](#), [Chronicles 28:20](#), and [Psalm 56:3-4](#).

Challenge

God loves you so much! [Psalm 46:1](#) says that God is your refuge, a safe place, and your ever-present help in times of trouble. How have you heard God speaking to you in tough times? What would God say to you or someone else who needed to be courageous because of his or her faith? Write an acrostic poem with some of your thoughts. Down the side of your paper, write REFUGE, one letter on each line. For each letter, write a thought that begins with that letter that tells more about how God cares for you in hard times and when you need to be courageous for him. Share your poem with an adult and thank God together that he is our

refuge and strength.

Take the Episode Quiz

Question 1: What role did the apostles give to Stephen?

Answer: They made him a deacon.

Question 2: What was his job?

Answer: To do some of the work of the apostles, like care for the widows

Question 3: True or False: The temple leaders were happy that Stephen was sharing his faith.

Answer: False. They hated what Stephen was doing and all those who followed him.

Question 4: Who did God send to Stephen to encourage and strengthen him?

Answer: He sent the Holy Spirit.

Question 5: What happened to Stephen because of his faith?

Answer: He was stoned to death.
