

## Lesson 5-10-20

**Theme:** This week we continue the theme of the church in the New Testament by learning about some people in the book of *Acts*. This week we will learn about Stephen, who helped the Apostles and was killed for his faith.

**Story to Read:** Stephen, Faithful Servant

After Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, it was up to his followers to share this good news in all the world. The twelve apostles were the first to do so. (Eleven had been with Jesus from the beginning. When Judas died, Matthias was elected to take his place.)

The apostles found themselves working very hard. They taught and preached. They baptized many, many new followers. They had to oversee the daily sharing of food and to care for people's needs.

"This is too much for us to do," they said. "We must choose some helpers."

The apostles asked God to help them choose wisely. Seven were elected and set apart to wait on tables and serve the poor. The apostles laid their hands on these seven and prayed.

One of the new helpers was Stephen, who was "full of faith and of the Holy Spirit," and a man of "grace and power." He was able to do "great wonders and signs."

Before long, a group of angry men opposed Stephen. They stirred up others and brought him to trial before a council, charging him with false teaching. But Stephen was not afraid. The members of the council saw "his face was like the face of an angel."

Bravely, Stephen stood and preached. He told the full story of how God's own people had turned away from what God wanted them to hear and to do. He shared the good news of Jesus once more.

Those who heard him were furious. They took him outside the city and stoned him to death. But before his last breath, Stephen forgave his enemies.

He cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

One who stood by as Stephen was killed was a man named Saul

### Activities

1. Coloring Sheet – Attached is a coloring sheet of Stephen.
2. Serving Tables Collage – You will need magazines with pictures of food and people serving food. Examples: A parent serving a meal; restaurant servers; or

people delivering food. Your child can make a collage on the theme of serving tables. The word “serving” can be lettered as a caption.

3. Forgiveness rocks – You will need a rock, paintbrushes and paint. Paint the word “forgive” or “forgiveness” on the rock and then go on a walk and leave it someone someone will find it so that it can be a reminder to forgive just like Stephen did.