

BK Sundays Family Take Home Sheet

Stephen Was ARRESTED

Acts 6-7

Christ Connection:

Jesus told His followers that they would be persecuted—hated, hurt, or even killed—for loving Him. Jesus also said that those who suffer for Him would be blessed. We can face suffering in this life because Jesus suffered first. He died and then rose again, and He is waiting for us in heaven.

Lesson Summary:

Stephen loved Jesus. One day, some Jews told lies about Stephen. They did not like Stephen, and they wanted him to get in trouble. The religious leaders asked Stephen if the Jews' words were true. Stephen told the leaders about Jesus. He said that Jesus is the Messiah, and the religious leaders were wrong to kill Jesus on the cross. The religious leaders did not like what Stephen was saying. Stephen looked up and said, "I see Jesus standing next to God." Suddenly, the people yelled, covered their ears, and ran toward Stephen. They made Stephen leave the city, and then they threw rocks at him. Stephen said, "Jesus, forgive them!" Then he died.

Discussion Starters:

- Who helped Stephen speak with wisdom?
- How can Stephen's faith encourage us in our own faith?

Prayer Prompts:

- *Pray for the persecuted church around the world—believers who continue to follow Jesus even though it may cost them everything. How can the faith of these believers increase our faith?
- *Praise God for His promise to calm our fears and be with us wherever we go. How does God's presence help us to endure persecution? How can we encourage others to turn to Jesus when they are afraid?

Activity:

Promise your family a special treat or experience later this week. It could be ice cream, a trip to the park, or staying up past bedtime. As you go through the week and await the promised reward, talk about how every believer can endure suffering in this life because we know a great reward is coming—eternity with Jesus!

Serving Idea:

Lead your family in a time of worship and prayer while sitting in a stairway, small closet, or bathroom. Talk with kids about the way many Christians must worship in secret due to persecution for their faith. Celebrate the faith of these believers and pray for their safety as they follow Jesus.

Unit 31 Key Verse

"But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds."

Isaiah 53:5