



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 31 • Session 3

## STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED

Acts 6-7

### **WHY DID JESUS BECOME HUMAN? JESUS BECAME HUMAN TO OBEY HIS FATHER'S PLAN AND RESCUE SINNERS.**

Stephen was one of Jesus' followers. One day, some Jews began to argue with Stephen. The Holy Spirit helped Stephen speak with wisdom.

But the Jews lied about Stephen; they said he had spoken against God. The people dragged Stephen to the Jewish court, and told more lies.

Stephen began to preach about Jesus. He reminded the court about Abraham. He reminded them about Joseph and Moses. When God's people lived in Egypt, God called Moses to rescue His people from Pharaoh. God did not give up on His people. He was working out a plan.

The religious leaders knew these stories from the Old Testament. Stephen told them these stories to explain that Jesus was the Messiah God had promised!

Stephen's words made the Jewish leaders so angry! Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked up to heaven and saw Jesus standing there.

"Look!" he said. "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

The Jewish leaders screamed at the top of their lungs. They began throwing stones at him. Stephen called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then he said, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" After this, Stephen died.

**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.

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