

Family Worship at Home. November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Stephen 6:5-7 A man of great faith and full of the Holy Spirit

In the Bible there are many great people who loved God and shared that love with others. One of these men was Stephen. Stephen, like the disciples John and Peter healed the sick and telling people about Jesus. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and was led to lead others to know Jesus, his life, death and coming back to life again.

Let's watch a clip about Stephen. (You can stop it after the story or continue to listen to the song that is at the end of the clip.)

[The Life of Stephen | God's Story - YouTube](#) or [CLC Kids Church - The Stoning of Stephen - YouTube](#)



Stephen gave everything. He was part of the early church. Jesus has gone up to heaven and all the people who had believed he was the son of God started to meet together. They told everybody about what they believed and people started to join them. The early church grew really quite big. So big they made Deacons, men who were respected, men who would help lead the church, Stephen was one of those deacons.

Stephen understood that to be part of the church community meant giving, and Stephen had a lot to give.

We know that Stephen was an educated man, and only the rich were educated. Stephen

took all his money and gave it to the church.

Stephen had been taught all about the God, and now he saw how Jesus fit into God's big plan, and so he used his mouth to preach the message to the people.

Stephen had 2 hands and 2 feet – that was all he needed to help serve the food to the community.

Stephen had time, he gave it all to serving the church, helping those people who came to join them.

Stephen was a great guy, but not everyone liked Stephen. You see not everyone liked the new church, the people who didn't believe Jesus was God's son thought the church was telling lies. And Stephen was so clever, and so wise, and so convincing he was getting more and more people to believe that Jesus was God's son.

The people who didn't like the church started to plan a way of stopping Stephen. they arrested him, they put him on trial, they got people to lie about him. Stephen listened to them and then made their trial sound foolish.

He told the truth about Jesus, he spoke so well his face shone brightly, the men couldn't even look at him. As he was finishing speaking he looked up and saw Jesus standing besides God the father, when he told the people what he saw they got really mad. They didn't even wait for the end of the trial, they just grabbed Stephen and dragged him out of the city.

Stephen thought he had given everything to the church but he had one last gift. The angry men picked up the stones by their feet and started to throw them at Stephen. As the stones started to hit Stephen he realised that he was about to die. Stephen cried out to God to receive his spirit, and to forgive the men who were killing him, and then Stephen died.

Stephen became a Martyr, a person who dies for what they believe. Stephen knew that what he believed was more important than his time, his money, his skills and even his life. There have been lots of Christian martyrs, and there are still people today who risk death because of their belief in Jesus.

We can do lots for God too. What are some ways we can show God's love to others?

Songs: [A Gift To You | 1 | kwscm - YouTube](#)

[I'm giving everything to God - YouTube](#)

**Activity:** after watching the God's story clip here is a rhombicuboctahedron to make!

Here is a link to the story of Stephen that matches the God's Story clip of a 3D shape to make with the story printed on it. Print the 3 pages. Colour the pictures and then sticky tape the shape together, matching the numbers on each picture to the flaps. Have fun. The shape you make is called the rhombicuboctahedron (yep...that's the name of an object that has eight triangular and eighteen square faces)

[GS Stephen Ball BW \(netdna-ssl.com\)](#)