

# [HOMEPAGE]

For families of junior soldiers

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC:

## The Trial of Stephen

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Peter 4:16 (NIV)

*"But suppose you suffer for being a Christian. Then don't be ashamed. Instead, praise God because you are known by that name."*

The memory verse for the week is included on each HOMEPAGE. Help your child review it during the week. The portion of the memory verse printed in *italics* is the portion of the verse for younger junior soldiers to memorize.

PARENT POINT:

Talk to your child about what it means to follow Jesus' footsteps. Encourage them to follow Jesus even when times are rough.



**TODAY IN JUNIOR SOLDIERS** the children learned about following in Jesus' footsteps by exploring the life of Stephen. Stephen was a man of great faith. He was chosen by the people to serve as a deacon in the church because he was filled with the Holy Spirit. Stephen was one of seven men chosen to tend to the daily needs of the people so the apostles could devote their time to the teaching of the Word.

The leaders of the Synagogue of the Freedmen perceived Stephen as a threat. They argued with him about his beliefs, but the efforts were useless. The leaders knew they needed to do something about Stephen. In secret they offered several men money to falsely accuse Stephen of speaking out against Moses and God.

Stephen was taken to the Sanhedrin and put on trial. While he was on trial, he started preaching to them. He told them they were no better than their fathers. Their fathers persecuted every prophet, and they killed the Messiah. Stephen's words angered the Sanhedrin. They took him out of the city and he was stoned to death.

Even through his trial and death, Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit. Before taking his last breath he prayed that the people that sinned against him would be forgiven.



### INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson helped junior soldiers understand how Stephen became a leader in the early Church. They realize that Stephen died because of his strong faith in Christ. Because of his death, many people became Christians, including Saul (who later was called Paul).