

# The Gospel is For All



Lesson 4

## Courage to Teach the Gospel

**Theme:** Courage — Trusting God to help us teach the gospel

### Memory Verses

“Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

Acts 2:37-38

### Daily Bible Readings

- 1 Acts 6:1-5, 8, 12-15
- 2 Acts 7:1-16
- 3 Acts 7:17-34
- 4 Acts 7:35-36, 39-41, 44-53
- 5 Acts 7:54-8:3

**S**atan is really good at trying to get people to sin. If Satan doesn't get us to sin one way, he'll try another. When the gospel first went into the world, Satan tried to stop it through hurting believers and then through tempting them. The gospel continued to spread and people believed it. But Satan had other plans to try to stop the gospel.

### Acts 6:1-5, 8, 12-15

Some widows were unhappy because:

- they had to live alone
- they weren't getting as much food as some
- they didn't have homes

*Cross out the wrong answer.*

The Jews said Stephen was preaching against the:

law      temple      widows      council





## Satan Tries Distracting Believers

When hurting and tempting believers did not stop the spread of the gospel, Satan tried distracting them. Today, Satan still tries to get our minds off of the gospel.

### Acts 7:1-16

*Cross out the wrong answer.*

Stephen reminded the people of:

Jacob	Abraham	Isaiah
Joseph	Isaac	



A problem among Christians came up when Greek widows complained that they were not receiving as much food as Jewish widows. The apostles knew this problem needed to be solved, but they also knew it must not take them

away from preaching the gospel. Satan wanted the apostles and other Christians to think about giving food instead of giving the gospel. The

apostles told the church to choose seven men to give food in a fair way. The apostles would continue the work of praying and preaching.

### Acts 7:17-34

Stephen explained that God used Moses to:

help Pharaoh	tell about Jesus
rescue His people from Egypt	

We learn some important lessons from this event:

- *We must be careful about complaining and grumbling. It is not wrong to point out that we have been treated unfairly. If this can be corrected, it should be. But we should not develop the attitude of griping or whining.*
- *We must look at problems, solve them if we can, and keep doing our work.*
- *People in a church should work together to solve problems. Each person should have a good attitude and be willing to work with others.*
- *We must not allow ourselves to be distracted from what is most important.*

## Stephen's Defense and Death

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen to care for the widows. He was a good, wise, and faithful man. Stephen not only helped with the widows, but he also spoke God's Word.

Some Jews did not like what Stephen said. They argued with him and stirred up people against him. The Jews dragged Stephen before the Jewish Council and



accused him of speaking against Moses and the temple. This gave Stephen a chance to preach about Jesus. He wanted people to see that what he was saying about the temple and the law of Moses was exactly what the Old Testament said.

**Acts 7:35-36, 39-41, 44-53**

*True or False?* The people of Israel always obeyed the Law of Moses.

*Match the following:*

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Old Testament Israelites | killed Jesus        |
| New Testament Jews       | persecuted prophets |

Some Jews believed that having the temple in Jerusalem meant that God was with them. Stephen showed from the Old Testament that God's being with His people was not really connected to a building. Stephen told them they had rejected God's leaders and that they did even worse than this – they murdered Jesus, the One sent by God!

This was more than the Jewish leaders could take. They didn't like what Stephen said and they started booing and hissing. Then, they dragged Stephen out of the city and started throwing rocks at him. They kept throwing rocks at him until he died.



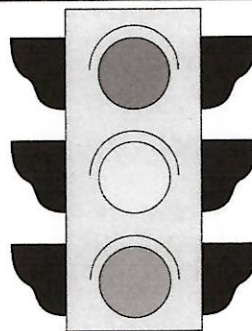
**Acts 7:54-8:3**

How did the people kill Stephen?

The man who kept people's coats while they killed Stephen was named:

People lost control of themselves and killed a man who told them the truth. This started more persecution against Christians. To protect themselves, Christians started leaving Jerusalem. Would this stop the gospel? We'll find the answer in lessons that follow.

When people make fun of me, I want to stop trying.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

**Red — most of the time**

Yellow — sometimes

**Green — almost never**

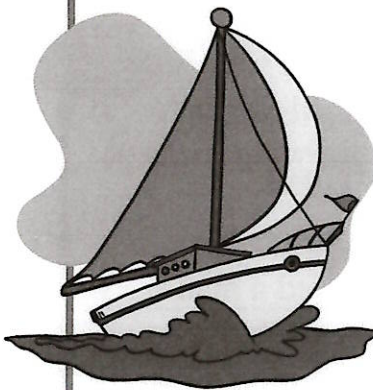
## Think About It ...

List three things that might distract you from serving God even though those things might not be wrong. (Example: playing video games)

1.

2.

3.



## Sailing Through the Bible Facts

Know the major stages of Bible history. Put them in the proper order:

- \_\_\_ Promised Land
- \_\_\_ Mount Sinai
- \_\_\_ Promise to Abraham
- \_\_\_ Slavery in Egypt
- \_\_\_ Jesus Christ
- \_\_\_ Wilderness
- \_\_\_ Babylonian Captivity

What is the book of Philippians about?

On a map inside the back cover, find the city of Caesarea.