Day after day, the disciples bravely preached about Jesus to people. God blessed the work the disciples did, and more and more people believed in Jesus as their Savior from sin. Soon there were so many believers that the disciples needed help with their work. They chose seven men to help them. One of the helpers was a man named Stephen.

God blessed Stephen with a very strong faith and helped him do wonderful miracles. God also helped Stephen bravely tell others about Jesus.

But some people who hated Jesus did not like what Stephen said. They took Stephen as their prisoner and brought in people to tell lies about him. The liars said, “This man speaks against our church and God’s Word.”

When the enemies looked at Stephen, they saw that his face looked like the face of an angel! They asked Stephen, “Are the things these people are saying true?”

Stephen answered the enemies bravely. He said that God loved them but that they did not want to love God. Then he said, “You even killed Jesus, the Son of God.” The enemies were very angry when they heard those words!

Then God did something very special for Stephen. He let Stephen look up into heaven and see the glory of God. “Look!” Stephen said, “I can see into heaven. Jesus is there!”

When the enemies heard this, they covered their ears and began to yell as loudly as they could. Then they rushed at Stephen, grabbed him, and dragged him outside the city.

Then the enemies picked up stones and began to throw them at Stephen. They kept throwing the stones because they wanted to kill Stephen.

As the enemies were doing this, Stephen prayed, “Lord, please forgive them.” Then Stephen died.

A man named Saul was watching. He was pleased that Stephen was dead. Saul did not believe in Jesus as the Savior and worked very hard to stop believers from telling others about him.

Many of the believers went to other places to get away from Saul. Wherever they went they told people about Jesus. Soon people in many other towns and cities believed in Jesus, the Savior from sin.
God helped a believer named Stephen bravely tell some enemies about their sin and the Savior. We know God is always with us, and we ask him to help us bravely speak up for him when others give us a hard time.

1. Which of the following things did the enemies throw at Stephen? Circle it and tell why the enemies treated Stephen in such a terrible way.

2. Make a list of the various places your family members were today. Also list challenges anyone faced. Who was with you in all those places and times? Say the memory treasure together as a reminder of God’s loving promise to be with you.

Pray Together

Dear Lord, comfort us with your promise to be with us always, especially when others give us a hard time for believing in you. Make us brave to tell others about you, no matter what they might do or say to us. We pray in your name. Amen.

Isaiah 41:10