



# **Sunday School Lesson**

**October 16, 2022**

**Stephen's Martyrdom**

**Acts 7:51—8:1a**

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

## Question for Us Today

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How do you handle it when you are given a hard time about your faith?

# Sunday School Lesson Objective

**October 16, 2022**

3

To understand the importance of the martyrdom of Stephen.

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments - 1**

**October 16, 2022**

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Luke

3. Points of Information: Acts

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2**

**October 16, 2022**

4. Lesson Context

5. Lesson Text

6. Remember These Things

## Points of Information – Luke

Luke was a Gentile, not a Jew.

Luke was a medical doctor by profession, which the Apostle Paul noted in Colossians 4:14 when he referred to Luke as “the beloved physician.”

## Points of Information – Luke

Although Luke traveled and worked directly with the Apostle Paul, he (Luke) was not one of the original Twelve Disciples and he was not an eyewitness to the earthly ministry of Christ Jesus.

7

Luke authored the third Gospel in our Bible as well as the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

## Points of Information – Acts

The Book of The Acts of the Apostles was written by Dr. Luke likely soon after A.D. 60.

8

Much of the ministry of the Apostle Paul is described in the Book of Acts – especially in terms of his missionary journeys. Luke's close friendship and ministerial partnership with Paul enabled him to bear witness to the spread of the Gospel.



## Points of Information – Acts

The Book of the Acts of the Apostles serves as a historical bridge between the Gospels and the Epistles (Letters) in the New Testament.

9

In the Book of Acts, Dr. Luke provides a detailed history of the early Christian church. In Acts 11:26, he noted that the followers of Jesus were “called Christians first at Antioch.”

# Stephen's Martyrdom

## Lesson Context

Standing before the High Council (Sanhedrin), Stephen gave a powerful speech filled with historical points regarding Israel. Key people mentioned in his speech were Abraham, Joseph and Moses.

# Stephen's Martyrdom

## Lesson Context

Stephen shifted the situation:

- From defense to offense
- From defendant to prosecutor
- From accused to accuser

# **Stephen's Martyrdom**

**Text – UMI Outline #1**

12

**Acts 7:51-53**

**The Conclusion of Stephen's  
Defense**

## Acts 7:51 (NLT)

“You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That’s what your ancestors did, and so do you!

## Acts 7:52

Name one prophet your ancestors didn't persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One – the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered.

## Acts 7:53

You deliberately disobeyed God's Law, even though you received it from the hands of angels."

# **Stephen's Martyrdom**

**Text – UMI Outline #2**

16

**Acts 7:54—8:1a**

## **The Death of Stephen**



## **Acts 7:54**

The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage.

## Acts 7:55-56

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into Heaven and saw the Glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right Hand.

And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's Right Hand!"

## Acts 7:57-58

Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him

and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.

## Acts 7:59-60

As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

He fell to his knees shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!”  
And with that, he died.

## **Acts 8:1a**

Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen.

**Remember these things:**

It is very likely that you will  
face opposition for your faith.

## **Remember these things:**

Consider it to be a test and an opportunity to witness even more for Christ Jesus.

## Remember these things:

In His Sermon on the Mount (in the Beatitudes), Jesus promised a reward for those who are persecuted for His sake.

Matthew 5:10-12



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