

Sunday School Lesson, August 9, 2026

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Lesson—A Dirty Job¹

Text: Acts 6:7-10; 7:54-60

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Reconstruct the broader story of Stephen's courageous and potent witness to Jesus Christ.
2. Meditate on one's own courage and call to be a witness to Jesus Christ.
3. Emulate Stevens courageous and potent witness to Jesus Christ.

Why This Lesson Matters: People may hesitate to speak up and take action even when their beliefs are called into question. Stephen, full of grace in the power of the Spirit, was equipped to defend his faith and talk about the truth of God's word.

Key Verse: “Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.” (Acts 6:8, KJV).

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson

1. Introduction
2. A Faithful Witness’s Defense (Acts 6:7-10)
3. A Faithful Witness’s Sacrifice (Acts 7:54-60)

III. Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson

Christ in His Word: spreading extensively through the death of Stephen.

Stephen: One of the seven leaders chosen to supervise food distribution to the needy in the early church.

The Jews: Members of the Sanhedrin court who opposed Jesus and Stephen discerning nature, initially skeptical but open to investigating the claims about Jesus.

IV. Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)

Multiplied

Obedient

Signs

Synagogue

Withstand

Wonders

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnbc.com

V. *Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context*

Axe is the first volume of the history of the early church, written by Luke, a gentile physician and traveling companion of the apostle Paul. Although the book is a historical account, Luke also includes doctrinal truths regarding salvation, Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the Holy Spirit, and other theological themes prominent in the Apostolic teaching and preaching.

The passage covered in this lesson focuses on the numerical and spiritual growth of the early church in Jerusalem after Pentecost, as it gained Jewish converts from Judaism and Hellenistic Jews (those influenced by and embracing Greek culture) from the diaspora and internal conflicts that surfaced between them.

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?)

Stephen was willing to give his very life for the spread of the gospel. Although we are not under the threats the early church faced, what are we willing to sacrifice for the spread of the gospel? Would we be willing to literally put our lives on the line for the cause of Christ? Some have; would you?

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*