

# Faithful Men are Chosen; False Witnesses Against Stephen

## Acts 6



New Testament 7  
Part 1: ABCs of Acts 1-6

## SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 7 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 6; 1 Timothy 3:8-13

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation" (Acts 6:3a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business" (Acts 6:3).

Also help the children memorize the ABCs of Acts.

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Dying for the Cause of Christ"](#)
- ["Do Not Fear"](#)

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [ABCs of Acts 1-12](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 7 Bible Facts")
- "Acts Chapter Summary" from "[Kids Prep 2](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from any books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- If possible, have one or more Deacons from your congregation talk to your class about what it means to be a Deacon and what kinds of jobs they do.
- Deacons (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=311>)



- **Life of Paul (Series 1) A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; note that only the apostles received the Holy Spirit baptism in Acts 2—skip card 1.2 or remove girl)**
- **Songs from “Sing a Story” Volume III (Book of Acts Stories Sung to Familiar Tunes), by Jewel Kendrick**

### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants me to respect the Deacons and Elders of our congregation because they are special servants who are trying to help me get to heaven.

## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Review last week’s lesson. What does it mean to be a leader? Do we have leaders in our congregation? The Bible tells us that Elders and Deacons should be our leaders. God gave them special jobs and we should always be very thankful for them and respectful to them. Today we are going to learn about special men who were chosen to serve the Church in a very special way.

### INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week’s lesson. We have talked about the Church being the Family of God, and in every family there are a lot of jobs that must be done. What kinds of jobs must be taken care of in the family of God? (Discuss things such as teaching others about Jesus, visiting the sick, taking care of those in need, helping take care of the building, etc.) Can one or two people take care of all these things? In the early Church, the apostles were very busy teaching others about Jesus, and the Church grew rapidly. They decided that they needed to choose special helpers to do things like take care of Christians with special needs. Let’s see who the apostles chose.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review the **ABCs of Acts** covered thus far. “F” is for **faithful** men who were chosen to be special servants in the early Church and the **false** witnesses against Stephen.
2. Thousands of Christians were in Jerusalem from all parts of the world, and they were happy to share what they had with one another. Remind the children that in Acts 4 we learned that many Christians, like Barnabas, sold their property and gave the money to the apostles to help others in need. As food was being given to those in need, “Grecian” or “Hellenistic” widows were not getting the food that they needed, and they asked the apostles for help.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** “Grecian” or “Hellenistic” people were Jews who spoke Greek. They may have been native to Palestine, or they may have been the descendants of Jews who had been scattered by persecution centuries earlier (the Diaspora). The Law of Moses specifically required that the Jews take care of widows (and orphans). So, it would have been a very natural thing for the first-century Christians (converted from Judaism) to take care of widows in need. Why were there so many widows in the early Church? “Because it was considered virtuous to be buried in the land of Israel, many foreign Jews would come to spend their last days there, then die and leave widows.... (A)ccording to one common tradition, the dead would be resurrected only in Israel...” (*IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*, Craig S. Keener, p. 338).



3. The apostles wanted to help these women, but it would not be good for them to stop preaching and teaching about Jesus in order to meet their needs. The apostles needed help, so they asked “the congregation of disciples” (Acts 6:2, NASB) to choose seven men with good reputations, strong faith, and wisdom to be special servants. The congregation chose seven men: Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas. The apostles “laid their hands” on these seven men, which not only meant that the church would know they were specially chosen, but also to give them the ability to perform miracles. These seven men were special servants.



**NOTE:** These men all had Greek names. This seems to indicate that they were chosen, not only because of their spiritual qualifications and good reputations, but also because they had a cultural connection with the group of women who needed help, i.e., the men may well have been Grecian/Hellenistic Jews as well. This chapter does not call these special servants “deacons,” but the Greek word *diakonia* (“to serve”) is used to describe what they were to do (Acts 6:1-2).

4. In his letters to Titus and Timothy (Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3), Paul told the young preachers what kind of men should serve the Church as Deacons and Elders, leaders of the Church. Talk about who the Elders and Deacons are in your congregation. Go over the qualifications for Elders and Deacons as much as is applicable for your class. We are to show these men respect and follow their leadership. They are working for our church family as a whole, trying to help all of us get to heaven.

**PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):**

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

**Ages 2-5:**

- [“Faithful Men Chosen Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” page 6 provided in activity sheets)
- Help the children write thank you notes to the Elders and Deacons (and/or men who serve) in your congregation.
- Bible Fact Toss: Have the children stand/sit in a circle. Ask a review question over this lesson or previous lessons. Toss/Roll a Nerf ball or beanbag to one of the children to answer the question and then have the child toss/roll the ball/beanbag back to you. Play continues until all the children have answered at least one question. (See [N.T. 7 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
- Ask the children to sit in a circle. The teacher says the first book of the New Testament. The child next to you says the name of the second book, and so on, until all the New Testament books have been said.

**1st-2nd Graders:**

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” page 6 provided in activity sheets)
- Provide paper, stationery, etc., so that the children can write thank you notes to your Elders and Deacons (or men who serve).
- Bible Jeopardy game (“[Jeopardy Questions](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- Word Scramble game: Write key words from this and previous lessons on cards and cut the words

apart. Put each word into a plastic bag or envelope. Let the children (individual or in pairs) unscramble the words. (“[Word Scramble](#)” provided in activity sheets)

- Write the books of the New or Old Testament on index cards; make several sets. Divide the class into teams or pairs. Have them work together to arrange the books in the correct order.

### 3rd-4th Graders:

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” page 6 provided in activity sheets)
- Provide paper, stationery, etc., so that the children can write thank you notes to your Elders and Deacons (or men who serve).
- Bible Jeopardy game (“[Jeopardy Questions](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- Word Scramble game: Write key words from this and previous lessons on cards and cut the words apart. Put each word into a plastic bag or envelope. Let the children (individual or in pairs) unscramble the words. (“[Word Scramble](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- Write the books of the New or Old Testament on index cards; make several sets. Divide the class into teams or pairs. Have them work together to arrange the books in the correct order.
- Have the children read the following:
  - Acts 6 (if they did not do so in NT6)
  - *Discovery* magazine articles: “Special Servants: Deacons,” [October, 2012](#)

## SONGS:

### “DYING FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune: “Standing on the Promises”)

#### VERSE 1:

Singing songs of Christians, and Ste-phen was one,  
Who was true and faithful to our God’s dear Son;  
Dying for the cause of Christ, oh let us sing,  
Dying for the cause of Christ, our King.

#### CHORUS:

Dying, dying,  
Dying for the cause of Christ our Lord and Savior,  
Dying, dying;  
He was dying for the cause of Christ, our King.

#### VERSE 2:

Stephen then saw Jesus, as he looked above,  
Standing on the right hand of our God of love;  
Praying to the Father, as to sleep he fell,  
Dying for the Lord he loved so well.

(CHORUS)

**“DO NOT FEAR” ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: “What A Friend We Have In Jesus”)

Do not fear for God is near us.  
All the twinkling stars do say.  
Do not fear for God is near us,  
All the night and all the day.

He will ever be our Father,  
And He’ll care for us, we know;  
If we’ll do as He commands us,  
He’ll go with us where we go.

\*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.





# Faithful Men are Chosen; False Witnesses Against Stephen

## Acts 6



New Testament 7  
Part 1: ABCs of Acts 1-6

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

New Testament 7 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 6; 1 Timothy 3:8-13

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation" (Acts 6:3a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business" (Acts 6:3).

Also help the children memorize the ABCs of Acts.

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Dying for the Cause of Christ"](#)
- ["Do Not Fear"](#)

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [ABCs of Acts 1-12](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 7 Bible Facts")
- "Acts Chapter Summary" from "[Kids Prep 2](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from any books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- If possible, have one or more Deacons from your congregation talk to your class about what it means to be a Deacon and what kinds of jobs they do.



- Deacons (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=311>)
- Life of Paul (Series 1) A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; note that only the apostles received the Holy Spirit baptism in Acts 2—skip card 1.2 or remove girl)
- Songs from “Sing a Story” Volume III (Book of Acts Stories Sung to Familiar Tunes), by Jewel Kendrick

## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants me to respect the Deacons and Elders of our congregation because they are special servants who are trying to help me get to heaven.

## INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 7 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 7 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly review Sunday’s lesson (See [N.T. 7 Review Questions](#) for example questions), as well as other ABCs covered to this point.
2. Discuss the **false witnesses** against Stephen, paying special attention to the kind of man Stephen was (Acts 6:8-14). Because of his preaching and the miracles he performed to glorify God, some of the Jewish leaders did not like Stephen—just as they did not like Jesus or the apostles. Some men falsely accused him of **blasphemy** against Moses (and thus the Old Law).



**Blasphemy:** hateful, ungodly words directed against God, Jesus, the Bible; includes taking God’s name in vain and swearing against God. (See Matthew 27:40-44,63; Leviticus 19:12; 24:15)

3. These men lied about Stephen, just as men had lied about Jesus. Lying always hurts people—both the ones telling the lies, and the ones they are lying about. With OLDER CHILDREN, read Revelation 21:8; Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:8-10; Exodus 20:16.

## PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.

