

UNIT VERSE

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

ROMANS 1:16 ESV

ADD-A-FACT

Choose a partner and take turns playing the game. Roll a number cube on the grid. Be the first player to add the number on the cube and the number in the fact together.

The first person to say the answer wins 100 points.

If the number cube lands on a line, roll it again.

Facts about Persecution Worldwide

1

Over **260 million Christians** experience high levels of persecution each day.

2

About **1 out of 9 Christians** throughout the world experience persecution.

3

About **10 Christians** are killed each day because of their decision to follow Christ.

4

In 2019, there were approximately **3,000 Christians** killed for their faith.

5

In 2019, over **9,000 churches** and other Christian buildings were attacked.

6

In 2019, almost **4,000 believers** were held without trial, arrested, sentenced, or imprisoned.

7

At this time, North Korea has the **highest level of persecution** in the world.

8

If **North Korean Christians** are found, they are taken to labor camps, or sometimes they are killed on the spot.

9

Today, **11 countries** are in the "extreme" level for their persecution of Christians.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

1

CONVERSATION

Stephen Preached

ACTS 6:8-7

Stephen was a man in the early church who had great faith and power. He loved God and believed Jesus was the Savior God had promised to send.

Stephen told people about Jesus and began to do miracles among the people.

Some of the Jews were angry.

They did not like what Stephen said,

especially when he talked about Jesus, and they argued with Stephen. God gave Stephen such wisdom that he won every argument! The Jews enlisted other men to lie about Stephen. "We have heard Stephen say bad things about God," the liars told the people. These liars stirred up the crowd, and the people dragged Stephen before the Jewish leaders.

Men continued to lie about Stephen in front of the high priest and the Jewish leaders. As the men lied, people saw that Stephen's face looked like an angel. The high priest asked Stephen, "Are these charges true?"

Stephen began to speak. He told the stories of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. Stephen also spoke about King David and King Solomon. Then Stephen told the Jewish leaders how they had been the ones to kill Jesus, the Righteous One of God. The leaders were furious!

When the crowd heard Stephen, they became angry! Stephen, however, was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked into heaven and exclaimed, "Look! I see heaven opened and Jesus standing at God's right hand!" The people screamed, covered their ears, and ran up to Stephen. They dragged him out of the city and began to throw stones at him. Stephen prayed and asked God to forgive the people.

Then Stephen died.

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE: John 16:33

LIFE POINT: Sometimes Christians face difficult times when they tell about Jesus.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Today your preteen heard about Stephen, a believer who faced difficulties and death because he told others about Jesus. Sometimes Christians encounter difficulties and challenges when they tell about Jesus.

LIVE IT OUT

Explain that sometimes believing in Jesus costs people their freedom or their lives. Lead your preteen to pray for missionaries serving in difficult places around the world so that all people can hear about Jesus and trust Him as Savior.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God calls all Christians to tell people about Jesus and to teach them how to know and follow God.

DAILY BIBLE READING

Sunday: John 16:33

Monday: 1 Peter 3:14

Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 4:17

Wednesday: 2 Timothy 3:12

Thursday: Isaiah 43:2

Friday: James 1:12

Saturday: Psalm 34:19

TAKE IT FURTHER: Check out *Stephen Preached* in Bible Studies for Life in the LifeWay Kids App for Bible stories, games, and more.