

# **Bible story for three voices**

**You can find this story in Acts chapters 6 and 7.**

**The number of people who wanted to follow Jesus grew.**

**So, the disciples needed more helpers.**

**They chose seven men to hand out money and food to the poor.**

**And to preach the good news.**

**One helper called Stephen stood out as being very helpful and brave.**

**Stephen was full of faith and full of the Holy Spirit.**

**God worked miracles through Stephen.**

**The teachers in the synagogue argued with Stephen.**

**They paid people to tell lies about Stephen.**

**They said Stephen had spoken bad things about Moses and God.**

**Stephen was put on trial.**

**Stephen listened to all the lies without blinking or saying a word.**

**His face grew bright and shone like the face of an angel.**

**The Holy Spirit helped Stephen speak up.**

**He told them about Jesus and accused them of killing him.**

**This made the leaders very angry with Stephen.**

**But Stephen stayed calm. He looked to the sky and said 'I can see heaven open'.**

**'I can see Jesus the son of man sitting at the right hand of God'.**

**Stephen had tears of joy in his eyes.**

**The crowd were more angry and said 'He has offended God and all of us'. 'Stephen must die'.**

**They dragged Stephen away outside the city gates.**

**They stood Stephen against a wall.**

**Stephen prayed to God: 'Forgive them Lord. Don't hold this crime against them'.**

**The elders took off their cloaks and gave them to a young man called Saul.**

**Saul would later become Paul and become God's great messenger.**

**Then the crowd began to throw heavy stones at Stephen.**

**They hurt Stephen badly.**

**Stephen called out 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit'.**

**He fell down and at last he lay dead.**

**Stephen was the first person to die for his faith in Jesus Christ.**

**All Age talk - interactive**



Stephen's first job for God was to look after those in need.

He sorted out the meals and made sure that everyone was treated fairly.

**Stephen trusted God and lived his life like Jesus did.**

Stephen's second job for God was to tell his friends about Jesus.

He used the stories in the Bible to show who Jesus was.

**Stephen trusted God and lived his life like Jesus did.**

Stephen's next job for God was to speak to some religious leaders about Jesus. His friends had grown jealous and had arrested him but when they looked at him, his face shone like an angel.

**Stephen trusted God and lived his life like Jesus did.**



Stephen told them that God was always on the move and called people like Abraham to follow him.

**Stephen trusted God and lived his life like Jesus did.**

Stephen told them that God spoken through Joseph but his brothers had just got rid of him.

**Stephen trusted God and lived his life like Jesus did.**

Stephen told them that God had sent Moses but at first they had given up on him too and chased him away.

**Stephen trusted God and lived his life like Jesus did.**

Stephen told them how God has spoken to Moses through a burning bush and then at a mountain in the desert.

**Stephen trusted God and lived his life like Jesus did.**

Stephen told them how God had come close in many ways, in special buildings and special places but they had not listened.

**Stephen trusted God and lived his life like Jesus did.**



Stephen then told them how God had spoken to them through Jesus but they hadn't listened to him either. They'd had him killed.

**Stephen trusted God and lived his life like Jesus did.**

Stephen said that now Jesus was alive again. He could see Jesus even now waiting in heaven for all who believe.

But this made them very angry and they had thrown stones at him to kill him.

**Stephen trusted God and lived his life like Jesus did.**

But Stephen prayed for those who hated him and like Jesus said 'forgive them'.

**Stephen trusted God and lived his life like Jesus did.**