

Sunday School Live Lesson

August 9, 2026

Stephen, the Unwavering Martyr

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

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Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Last Week's Sunday School Live Lesson

August 2, 2026

Thomas, the Hesitant Believer

**John 11:14-16; 14:5-8; 20:24-29;
21:1-2**

2

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Next Week's Sunday School Live Lesson

August 16, 2026

Saul of Tarsus, the Unlikely Apostle

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Acts 22:3-15

Instructor: Michael McCants

THIS WEEK'S Sunday School Live Lesson

August 9, 2026

Stephen, the Unwavering Martyr

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

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Questions To Consider

August 9, 2026

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Do you know of anyone who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their faith?

Who was it and what happened?

Sunday School Lesson Objective

August 9, 2026

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To understand and internalize God's messages for us today through these passages of Scripture in the Book of Acts of the Apostles.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

August 9, 2026

1. Bibliography

**2. Points of Information: Acts, Sanhedrin,
Stephen**

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

August 9, 2026

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

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5. Remember These Things

Bibliography - 1

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General Editors: Leland Ryken,
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Fentress-Williams.

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Standard Lesson Commentary.

Tony Evans Study Bible, The.

Writings of the New Testament, The.
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Points of Information – Acts

This Book is attributed to the hand of Luke.

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This Book starts with the ministry of Peter and ends with the ministry of Paul.

Points of Information – Sanhedrin

The Sanhedrin was an ancient council, with its 71 members, that served as a Jewish supreme court – a body that put Jesus on trial.

Points of Information – Stephen

Stephen was one of the first men selected by the Disciples to serve in the capacity of a deacon. Acts 6:2-5.

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In addition to that service, Stephen “performed great wonders and signs among the people.” Acts 7:8b.

Stephen, the Unwavering Martyr

Lesson Context

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The Twelve Disciples realized that they required help with the growing needs of the people, so that they could remain focused on the “ministry of the Word of God.” Acts 6:2.

Seven men, including Stephen and Philip, were appointed to provide the needed help – fulfilling the role of the first deacons. Acts 6:3-5-7.

Stephen, the Unwavering Martyr

Lesson Context

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The men of the Sanhedrin Council felt threatened by the words and works of Stephen. They conspired against him with false accusations.

In Chapter 7, Stephen gave a powerful speech (sermon) before the Council, filled with a history of the faith and an indictment of his accusers.

Acts 6:7 [NIV]

So the Word of Gospel spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:8 [NIV]

Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 6:9 [NIV]

Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called) – Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cicilia and Asia – who began to argue with Stephen.

Acts 6:10 [NIV]

But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

Acts 7:54 [NIV]

When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

Acts 7:55 [NIV]

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to Heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right Hand of God.

Acts 7:56 [NIV]

“Look,” he said, “I see Heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right Hand of God.”

Acts 7:57 [NIV]

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him,

Acts 7:58 [NIV]

dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Acts 7:59 [NIV]

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

Acts 7:60 [NIV]

Then he fell on his knees and cried out,
“Lord, do not hold this sin against
them.”

When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 8:1a [NIV]

And Saul approved of their killing him.

Acts 8:2 [NIV]

Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

Remember These Things:

We should know that there will be detractors and enemies of our faith.

Therefore, we should pray that the Lord will give us what we need to persevere.

Sunday School Live

August 2, 2026

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