



Lord, forgive them.



Christians Are Persecuted

Lesson Theme Poster / Unit 18 / Lesson 172

Lesson Focus

Soon after Pentecost, the apostles began to experience persecution because they preached the truth in the name of Jesus Christ. They were able to stand firm and even rejoice in their sufferings because they were empowered with the promised Holy Spirit. The first martyr, Stephen, gave his life to proclaim the truth.

Key Passages

Grades 2–3: Acts 4:1–4, 4:19–20, 5:17–20, 7:54–60

Grades 4–5: Acts 4:1–4, 4:7–10, 4:16–20, 5:17–20, 5:40–42, 7:54–60

What You Heard in the Word

- ▶ The apostles were persecuted because they were teaching and doing miracles in the name of Jesus. Despite imprisonment, warnings, and beatings, they praised God, rejoiced to suffer for Jesus, and continued preaching with boldness.
- ▶ Stephen was stoned to death for his faith in Jesus, making him the first Christian martyr.

