



Date: July 6, 2008

Lesson Title: Never Alone

Scripture Passages: Acts 6 & 7

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:13

1. Please read Acts 6:1-7 and answer the following questions:

- Why did the Apostles need to appoint seven other men?
- What daily task were these seven men to be in charge of?
- One of the seven men chosen was Stephen. How is Stephen described in Acts 6:5?
- Put into your own words below what you think it means to be "*full of faith and of the Holy Spirit*"?

2. Please read Acts 6:8-15 and answer the following questions:

- How is Stephen described in Acts 6:8 and what was he doing?
- What happened to Stephen while he was telling others about God?

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3. In Acts 7:1-50, Stephen answered his accusers by delivering a powerful message about what God had done throughout history.
- List three things from Acts 7:1-50 that show how God worked throughout the history of the Hebrew nation?
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4. Please read Acts 7:51-60 and answer the following questions:
- What message did Stephen deliver to the Sanhedrin in Acts 7:51-53?
  - What was the response of the people to the message from Stephen? (Acts 7:54)
  - What did Stephen do when the people refused to repent?
  - What did the people finally do to silence Stephen?



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5. **A Christian Martyr** (Mar-tyr From the Greek word for “Witness”) is...  
Someone who chooses to suffer death than to deny Jesus Christ or his work.

Stephen is considered the first Christian Martyr. In 1999 about 164,000 Christians were martyred according to the Christian World Encyclopedia

6. The following is a true story about a preteen who was 12 years old in Russia.  
Taken from “Jesus Freaks-dcTalk and The Voice of the Martyrs”, pp.278-279

*Every eye in the room was on Valya as the director of the school called her name again. “Valya Vaschenko” the director said firmly, “take the oath.” Valya’s mouth stayed shut tight. “Valya! Say the oath,” he commanded. “Valya...very well, I will read it in your name.”*

*Weeks earlier, the director of the school had decided that it was time that Valya, a twelve-year-old Christian girl in Russia, should become a member of the Communist children’s group known as Pioneers. Valya refused but refusal was not hers to make. By law, the director took the place of her parents.*

*When membership day came, the girls stood in a group before a table on which were laid the three-pointed, red pioneer scarves. One by one the other girls had stepped forward to take the oath and put on a scarf. All but Valya.*

*As the director prepared to read the oath for Valya, he pointed to two other girls. “You will place the scarf on Valya’s neck as I read.”*

*He began, “I, a young Pioneer of the U.S.S.R., before my comrades-patriots deciding the question of the admission into the organization-promise that I shall stand firmly for the cause of Lenin and for the victory of Communism. I promise...”*

*But his next words were drowned out as Valya burst out in prayer to God and began to sing a hymn.*

*“We will stand firm for the Gospel faith, for Christ, following His example, forward after Him.”*

*Again and again, in Russian schools Christian children would stand up in class to pray out loud and to witness. These children were beaten and forced to leave their families, but others followed their example.*

*In 1963, prayer was banned in American public schools. What would have happened if American parents had taught their children not to submit to this decision?*

*Here in the United States, the First Amendment of our Constitution guarantees us freedom of speech and freedom of religion. What have we done with that freedom? Must we wait until it is taken away as it was in Communist Russia or other dictatorial societies before we grow bold enough to stand up and proclaim Jesus before others?*

*Taken from “Jesus Freaks-dcTalk and The Voice of the Martyrs”, pp.278-279*

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What is it that we should be learning from these children, men and women who have stood strong and proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior ...?

## 7. Time to Think!

What is it that we should be learning from those who have stood strong and proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior ... We should realize that they were **Convinced that there is an eternal life in heaven with Jesus Christ.** That their life on earth is only a temporary visit.

- Write out the memory verse, Philippians 4:13, below.
  
- What does God promise in this verse?
  
- What will it take for you to stand firm with God like Stephen and these others, even if it means trouble for you? Write your answer below.
  
- Now spend time praying for those in other countries where they are arrested, harmed or even killed for telling others about Jesus. Write your prayer below. Also remember to thank God for our ability in America to worship Him freely.