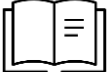



**Acts 6** Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in 1,2,3,4,5, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews

because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of



**12** And the called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is

not right that we should neglect the  in order to wait on

 **3** Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves **7** men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this


task, **4** while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to



and to serving



." **5** What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of

Antioch. **6** They had these men stand before the apostles, who  and laid their hands on them.

**7** The  of God continued to spread; the 1,2,3,4,5 of the disciples



grew greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became

obedient to the faith.

Stephen was one of the first deacons in the Christian church. He and the others took care of the needs of other Christians, especially the widows (women whose husbands had died).

Did you know that your family has a deacon from Southminster who looks after you? Ask your parent who your deacon is.

Our story today is "Stephen's witness" What does it mean to witness?



It means to notice something. What have you witnessed already this morning? Draw or write it below.

When we say be a witness, we usually mean tell about what you've witnessed. Stephen witnessed that Jesus was God. He witnessed to God's love both through talking and through the way he served people.

Where have you witnessed that God loves you? What words or actions have helped you notice this. Write or draw them below.

	example:
When I touch my cat's soft fur and hear him purr I realize what a gift he is from God to me and I remember that God loves me	

What words or actions could you use to be a witness to God's love?

Stephen was killed for telling people that they were not living like God intended for them. We thank God that in America we can safely tell and show people that God loves them.



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# Stephen the Martyr

The stoning of Stephen - Acts 7:54-60

ACTS  
FORGIVE  
HEAVEN  
HOLY  
JESUS  
KILLED  
KNEES

MARTYR  
SANHEDRIN  
SAUL  
SPIRIT  
STEPHEN  
STONES  
WITNESSES

Y A N L D J U O U W J Z L S N  
M E B U Z Y O N B B I U V A Q  
U I S A X L T C C B F T J N Y  
S Q R S T E P H E N I O Z X U  
R Y T R A M H P X E W E O N A  
S E Y C J N Q W X T Q M U L S  
P E T H V N H E A V E N N H I  
I S N J B O J E S U S M B W U  
R K N O L J C T D B I I O B H  
I G F Y T E V I G R O F L M B  
T O F S E S S E N T I W Z W I  
D T Z Q C X H W I Q I N C V K  
B M J S E E N K I L L E D L Z  
K B W Y S C A Q S U I E E X V  
L W K J P M S D A X W L R A Y

Did you know that there are grown ups in your church who could use a little loving care from a child?

Today's craft: Be a witness to God's love. Make a card for a person in our church who is living alone during COVID. Be sure to remind them that God loves them and the church does too. If you call Christine she will come get the card and mail it for you.

Here are some words and ideas you may want to use:

**Remember: God loves you!**

**You are special to God.**

**Spring is coming!**

