

COMMUNITY AND CONDEMNATION

Acts 6:1–7:2a, 44-60

KIDS
3RD-6TH

NL

Key Verse:

The word of God continued to spread.
Acts 6:7

The Point:

God is present in the midst of disagreement, fear, and danger.

Making Connections:

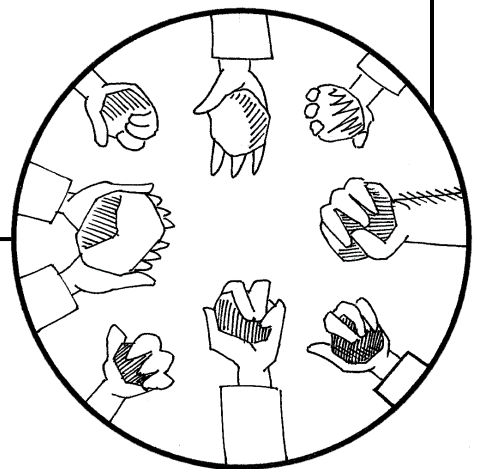
Birth of the Church

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Luke-Acts

Spiritual Practice:

Worship



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

This week, we continue to hear about the early church. Last week, we looked at Easter morning and the roller coaster of emotions that Jesus' followers experienced. Today we see them start to add structure to the church to take care of everyone's needs. We also see them in conflict, and learn of Stephen, the church's first martyr, who is killed because he follows Jesus.

Story Summary:

Community and Condemnation

Today's Scripture sees the apostles successful in their ministry, and the early church growing. This growth means there are new challenges to face in providing for the followers, and in the diversity (in culture and background) of these followers.

Some of the Hellenistic (Greek) Jews feel that some of their needs are being passed over, so it is decided that there will be people appointed to take care of food and resource distribution, freeing others to focus on preaching and teaching. One of those appointed is Stephen, who is said to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.

Some began to be threatened by all of Stephen's work, so he is accused of blasphemy, speaking against God. When called in front of the Sanhedrin, which functioned as a court, his speech challenges people further. He tells the ancient story of the people of Israel, but causes conflict when he includes Jesus and accuses the leaders of opposing God's will. As a result of this, Stephen is stoned to death.

Stephen asks for the sins of those who kill him not to be held against them; he continues to share love and faith even in his final act. After Stephen's death, the church continues to grow and new leaders arise and expand the work of Jesus throughout the world.

The Point

God is present in the midst of disagreement, fear, and danger. God is always present, even when we are not getting along. As students grow older, they are most likely aware of conflict and disagreement that might exist in your community (whether family, church, school, sports, or clubs). It is important to let them know that this has always been a part of the church. The church is made up of imperfect people trying to do God's work.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Luke and Acts

The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts are companion books in the New Testament. Written by the same author, to the same person, they work together to give us the early history of the church. In Luke, the author tells the stories of Jesus. Acts continues this story by telling the stories of Jesus' first followers, people seeking to live out their identity as the community of believers.

Spiritual Practice: Worship

Worship is an essential part of the Christian faith. It helps us to focus our minds and hearts on God, and through this, helps us to grow closer to God and become who God wants us to be.



Word Search

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

APOSTLES

FOOD

JEWS

MINISTRY

PRAYER

RESPONSIBILITY

SEVEN

TABLES

WIDOWS

WISDOM

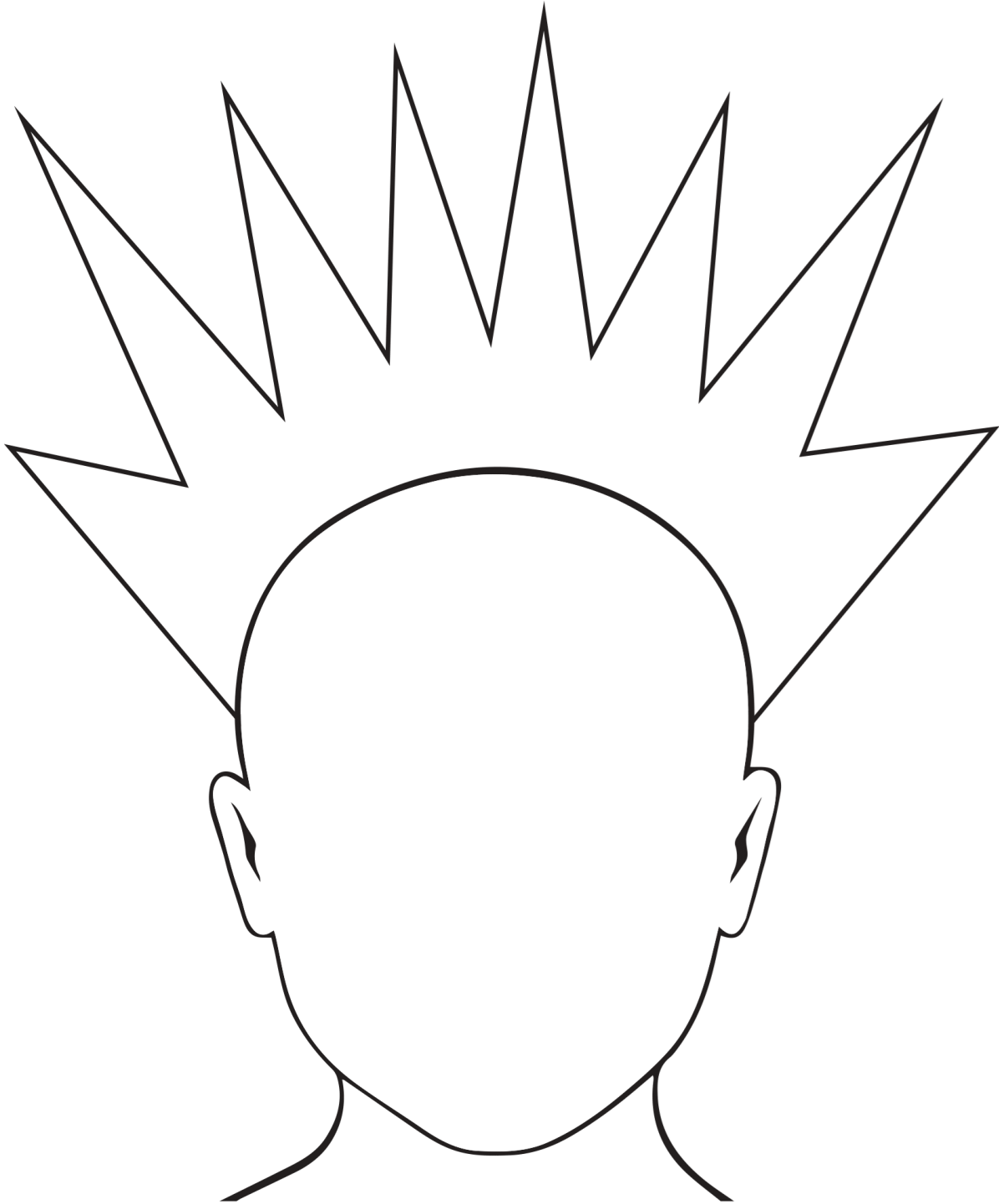




Stephen Was Brave

FACE LIKE AN ANGEL

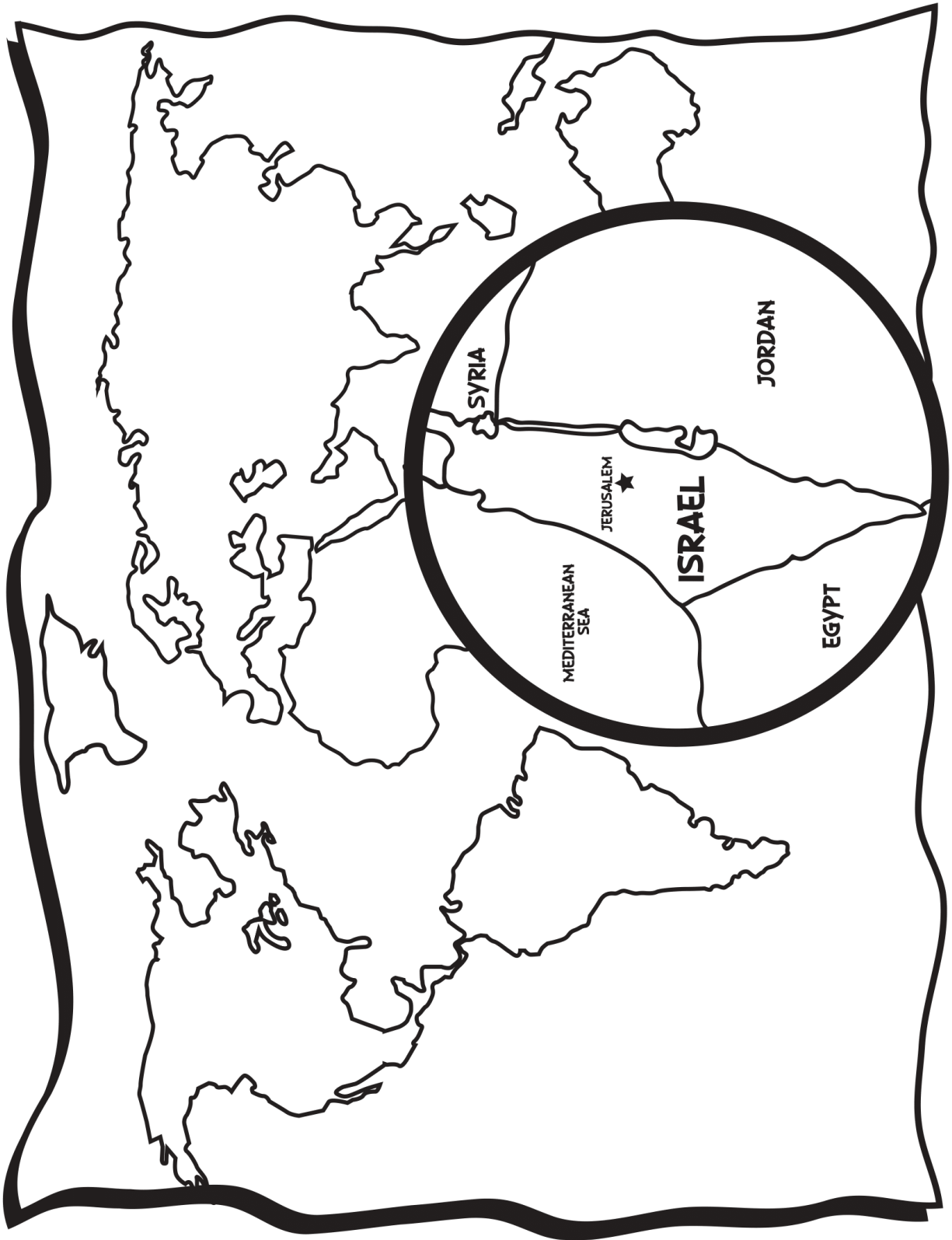
What keeps us glowing?



When being questioned, those watching noticed that Stephen's face was like that of an angel.
What helps you remember God is with you during hard times?

SPREADING THE WORD

The church is growing.



WAYS I CAN SERVE

Think of ways you can serve God in the following places



At Home



At School



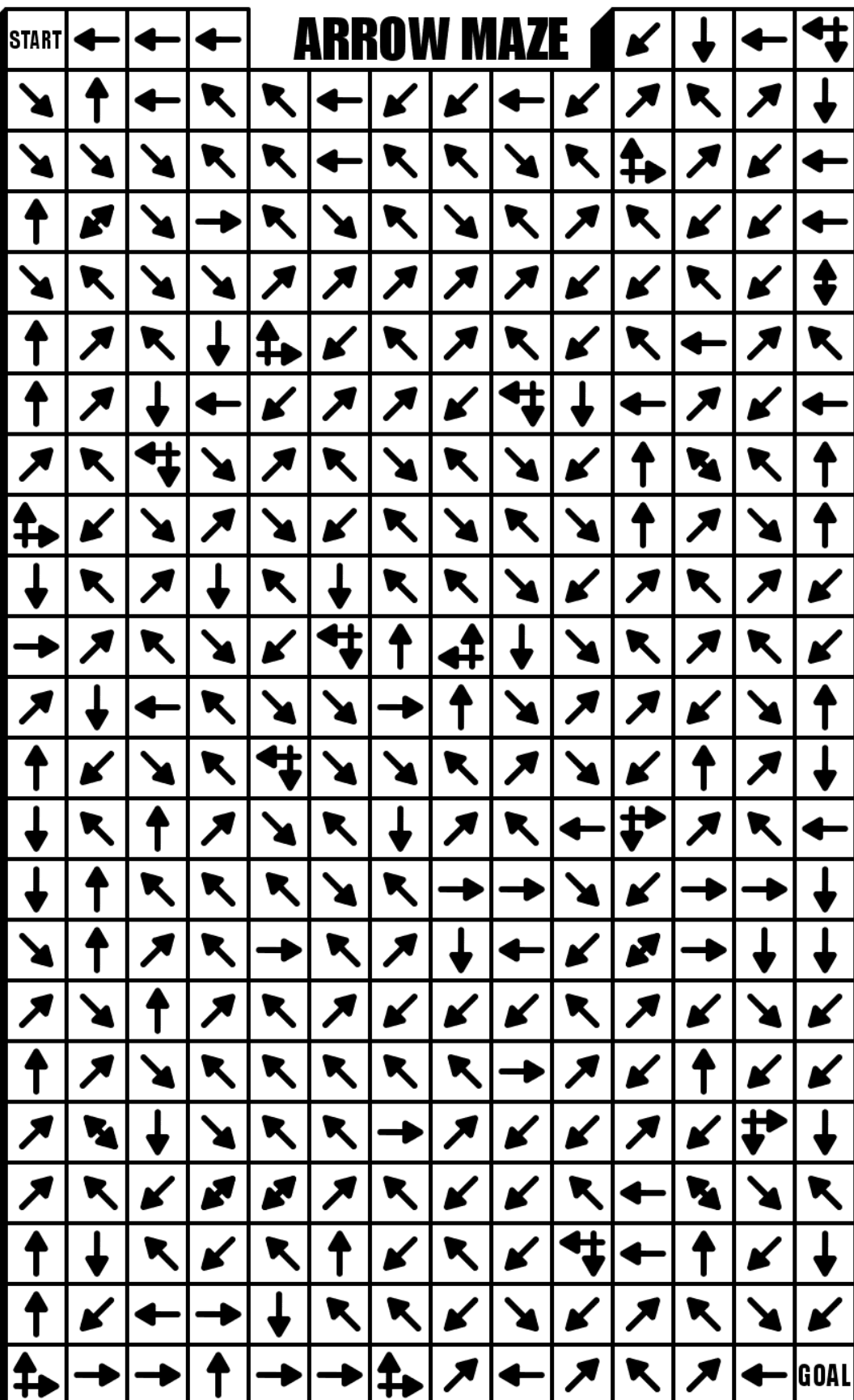
At Church

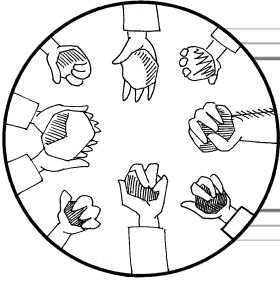


In the Community

START

ARROW MAZE





THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2024-2025)

Lesson #3-33
Acts 6:1–7:2a, 44-60

LAST WEEK

Jesus is laid in a tomb, but three days later women hear the good news from angels that Jesus is alive! The risen Jesus walks with two disciples to Emmaus, but they do not recognize him until later (Luke 24:1-35).

THIS WEEK

After Pentecost, a disciple named Stephen teaches about Jesus and does miracles. He preaches to the religious leaders, but then he is stoned to death. (Acts 6:1–7:2a, 44-60).

THE POINT

God is present in the midst of disagreement, fear, and danger.

STORY SUMMARY

Community and Condemnation

As the early church grows, it now faces new challenges. Some feel that some their needs are being ignored, so the apostles decide to appoint people to take care of distributing food and other resources, freeing others to focus on preaching and teaching. One of those appointed is Stephen. He begins preaching and performing miracles. He is accused of speaking against God. He tells the ancient story of the people of Israel, but causes conflict when he includes Jesus and accuses the leaders of opposing God's will. As Stephen is executed, he forgives those who do it.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Luke-Acts

The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts are companion books in the New Testament. Written by the same author, to the same person, they work together to give us the early history of the church. In Luke, the author tells the stories of Jesus. Acts continues this story by telling the stories of Jesus' first followers, people seeking to live out their identity as the community of believers.

PRACTICE: WORSHIP

Worship is an essential part of the Christian faith. It helps us to focus our minds and hearts on God, and through this, helps us to grow closer to God and who God wants us to be. Think of one activity to do together as a family that will bring you closer to God.

NEXT WEEK

The Holy Spirit directs a disciple named Philip to continue to spread the good news. Philip encounters an influential man from Ethiopia and teaches him about Jesus (Acts 8:26-39).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ Where do you see the message that “It is GOOD” in this Scripture?
- ✚ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Acts 6:1–7:2a, 44-60

The early church grows, and the apostles appoint new leaders to help support its needs. One of these new leaders, Stephen, is stoned to death. What is each member of your family good at around the home? Come up with a plan to share the work.

Monday—Read Acts 2:43-47

The early church shares all aspects of life together, including worshipping, studying, eating, praising God, and proclaiming the good news to more people. Brainstorm ways your family can help your church with money, time, skills, or in other ways.

Tuesday—Read Acts 5:12-16

Many people come to Jerusalem for healing by the apostles. Get out a map and look at where Jerusalem is located. Find pictures of modern-day Jerusalem. What do you notice?

Wednesday—Acts 5:17-32

The success of the apostles begins to arouse jealousy. They are thrown in jail, but an angel of the Lord opens the prison doors so that they can return to the temple to preach. What is jealousy? Talk about times when you might have felt jealous. What can we do to keep our jealousy from getting us into trouble?

Thursday—Read Acts 6:8-15

Stephen, in the midst of doing great acts, is falsely accused and brought to trial. What should you do if someone asks you to do something you know is wrong? How can you as family members support each other in making right choices?

Friday—Read Acts 7:1-43

During his trial, Stephen tells the story of the Hebrew people from the time of Abraham through the exodus. Get that map back out. As you read the story Stephen tells, find the places where God's people are moving.

Saturday—Read Acts 8:4-25

Phillip, and then Peter and John, go to Samaria where people are first baptized with water. This is followed by the Holy Spirit coming to them through the laying on of hands. Tell stories about the baptism of each person in your family. If you have pictures, candles, or other items, get those out to help in your storytelling.