

Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

***CHOOSING HELPERS IN THE CHURCH /
THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR***

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ACTS 6:1 — 7:2, 51–60

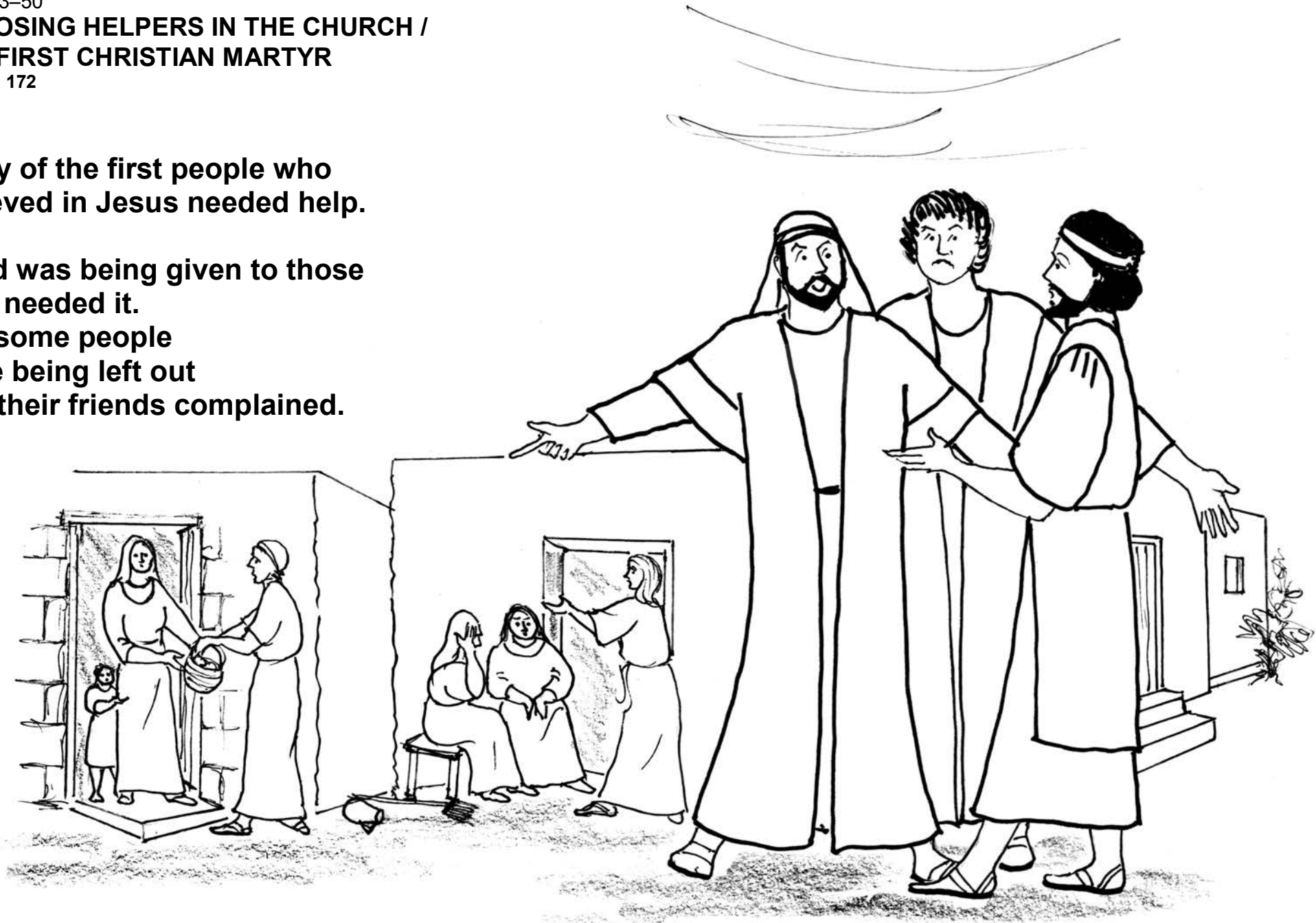
Acts 7:3–50

**CHOOSING HELPERS IN THE CHURCH /
THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR**

File no. 172

**Many of the first people who
believed in Jesus needed help.**

**Food was being given to those
who needed it.
But some people
were being left out
and their friends complained.**



So the apostles called everyone together and said, 'There are a lot of people who have become believers in Jesus and are part of our community. We cannot do all the work that is needed to be done.

'Choose seven men you trust, who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will give them the job of sharing the food to those who need it.

'It is important that we spend time in prayer and teaching God's word.'

Everyone was happy with this plan and they chose Stephen, Philip and five others.

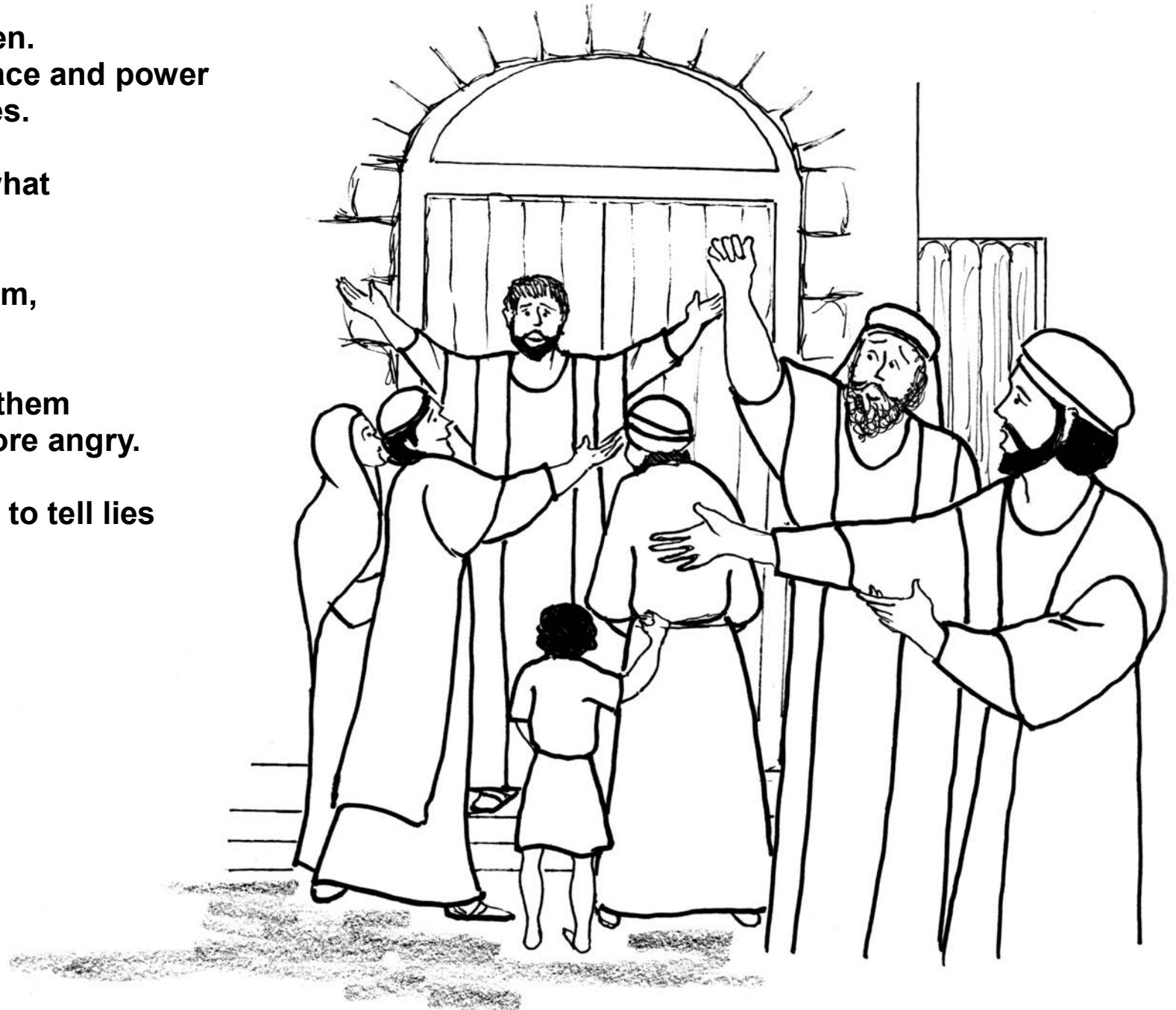


**God blessed Stephen.
He gave him His grace and power
to do lots of miracles.**

**Some Jews hated what
Stephen was doing.**

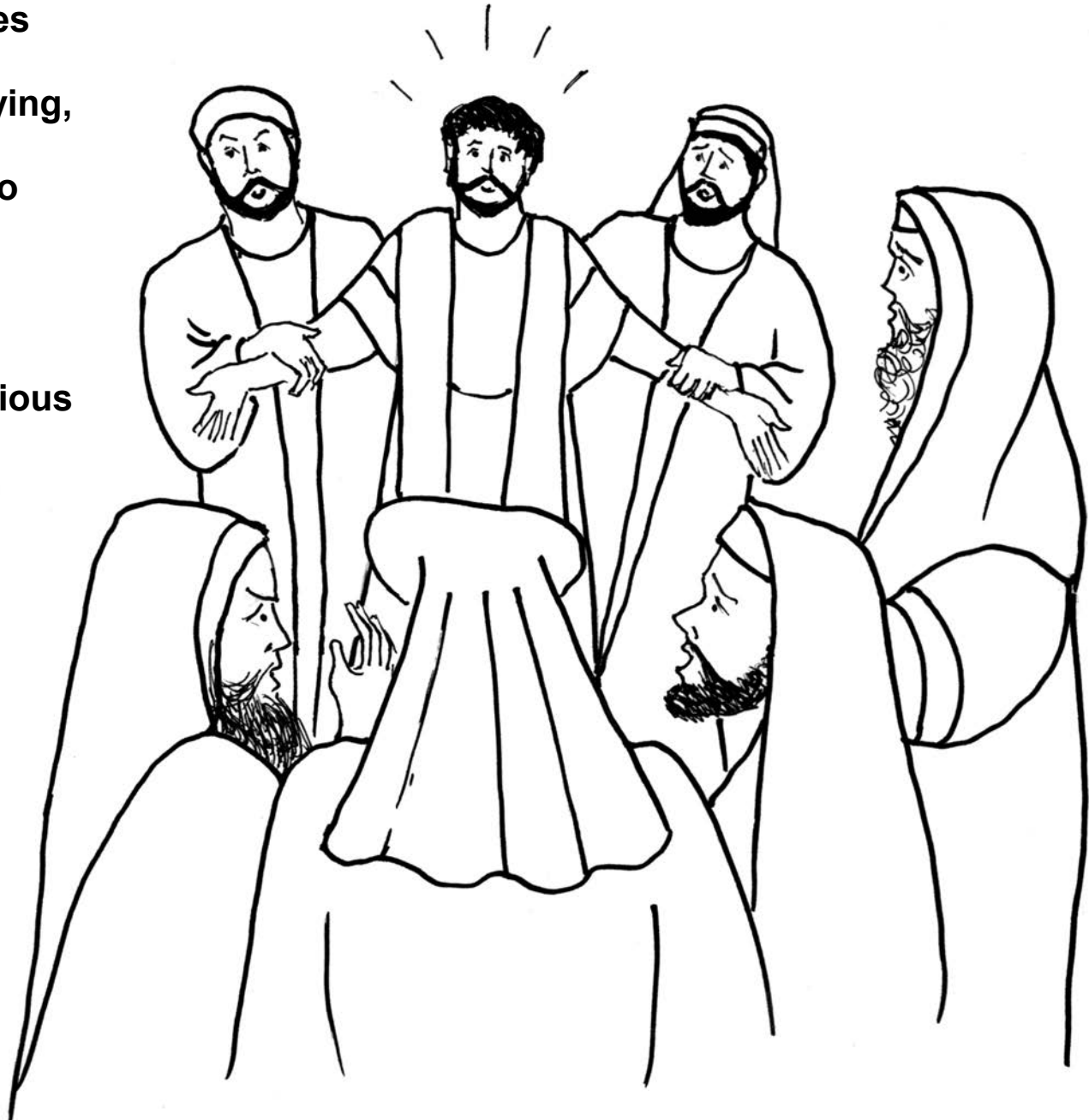
**They argued with him,
but God's Spirit
was with Stephen.
He spoke wisely to them
but they became more angry.**

**Then they paid men to tell lies
about him.**



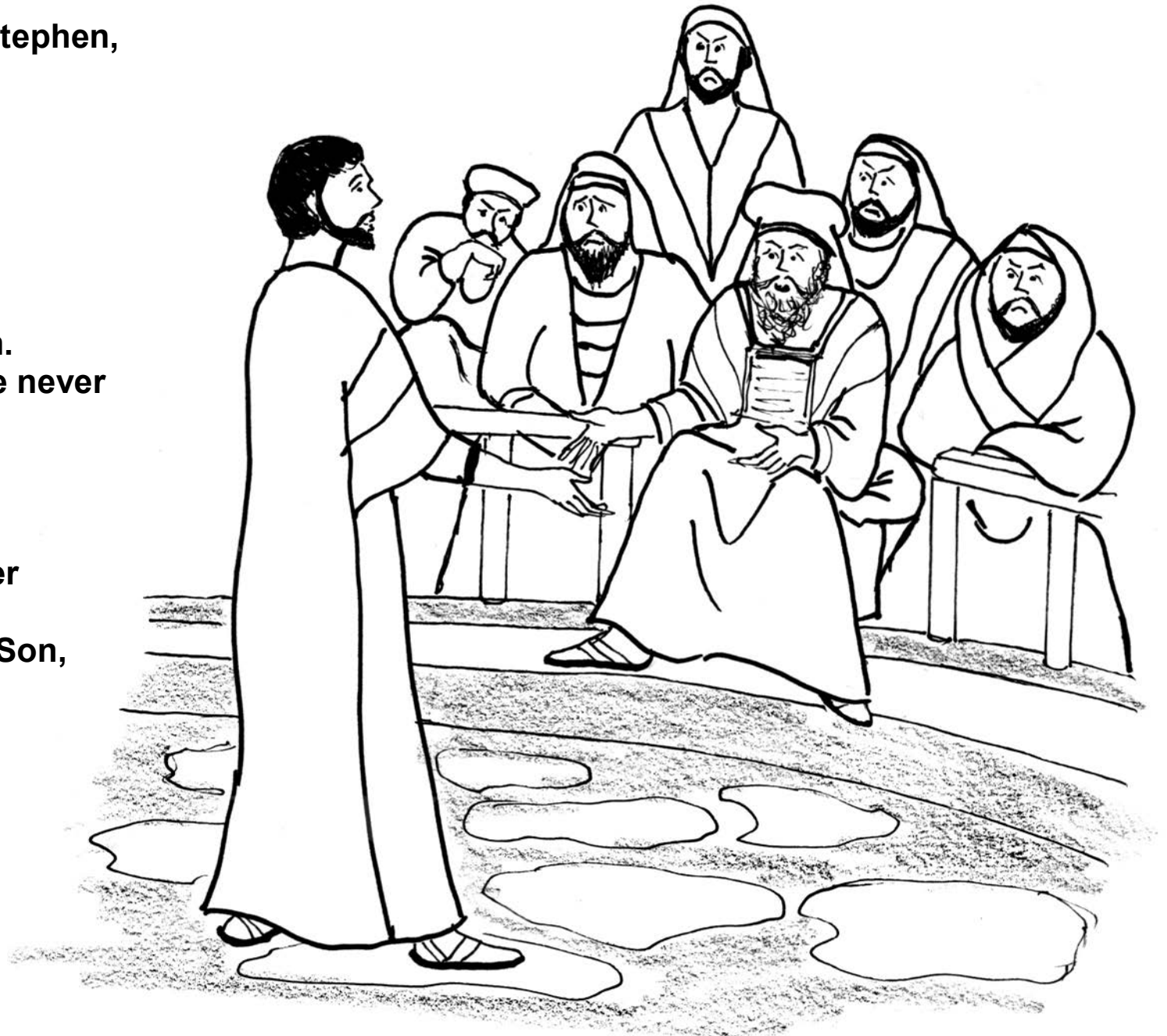
Some people believed the lies and dragged Stephen off to the Jewish leaders saying, 'We heard Stephen say that Jesus of Nazareth is going to destroy the Temple and change the laws which Moses gave us.'

The Jewish leaders were furious but Stephen was not afraid. When they looked at him, his face was like the face of an angel.



**The High Priest asked Stephen,
'Are these things true?'**

**Stephen answered,
'God spoke to
Abraham and to Moses.
Then through David
He gave Israel a place
in which to worship Him.
But our forefathers have never
really heard what God
was saying to them.
They wanted something
they could see instead.
They and you have never
really listened to God.
Then when He sent His Son,
you killed Him.'**



**This really made the
Jewish leaders angry.**

**But Stephen,
filled with the Holy Spirit,
looked towards heaven
and saw the glory of the Lord.**

**He said, 'Look!
I see the heavens opened.
I see Jesus,
standing at God's right hand.'**



The men were now so angry they began shouting. Then they dragged Stephen out of the city.

They left their coats with Saul, picked up stones and threw them at Stephen.

Stephen was not afraid. He prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit and do not hold this sin against them.'

Stephen died, but Jesus was waiting to receive him.

