

STEPHEN: THINGS GET TOUGH

May 23, 2026

Bible Readings

Take a few minutes to read the Bible verses listed and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in how this verse applies to you this week.

Acts 6:8-15

Memory Verse

10 Don't be afraid. I am with you. Don't tremble with fear. I am your God. I will make you strong, as I protect you with my arm and give you victories.

Isaiah 41:10



CASEY'S DAY

written by Ron VandenBurg
illustrated by Chad Thompson



Imagine you are Stephen, a leader in the early church. The twelve apostles prayed over you and sent you into the city to tell people about Jesus. You're so excited to share the good news! God is performing miracles, and people can see the love of Christ in you.

But then some people start saying things about you that aren't true. You answer their questions correctly, but they keep telling lies. Even though others can see that you've done nothing wrong, the lies don't stop. These people want you to stop talking about Jesus.

How would you feel? What would you do?

Stephen's enemies brought him before a judge, and Stephen continued to tell them about Jesus. That made the crowd even angrier. They started yelling mean things and even threw rocks at Stephen. But right then,

Stephen looked up and saw Jesus in heaven, watching over him. Jesus knew what it felt like to be hurt by others—he had crowds yell at him too. He died on the cross and came back to life. And he was right there with Stephen in that scary moment.

Stephen must have felt peace knowing that Jesus was with him. He wasn't alone.

Have you ever felt scared or hurt? Maybe someone was mean, made fun of you, or left you out. Even then, Jesus is with you. He knows how you feel. Jesus loves you so much and will never leave your side. He will help you be strong and even carry you when you need him.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for being with me even in difficult moments. Open my eyes to see you in those moments. Open my ears to hear you reminding me of your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

written by Philip Vander Windt

<https://kidscorner.net/devotions/stephen-things-get-tough>
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