

## PRAYER

O Holy Spirit, You have opened my ears to hear Your Word. Always keep them open—even when I feel tempted not to listen. Amen.

### Memory

1. “Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy” (Exodus 20:8).
2. “Blessed are those who continue to listen to God’s Word and keep it” (Luke 11:28).

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*Emmaus Bible Lessons*  
Series 1: The First Three Commandments  
Study #10 of 13: The Stoning of Stephen (Acts 6-7)

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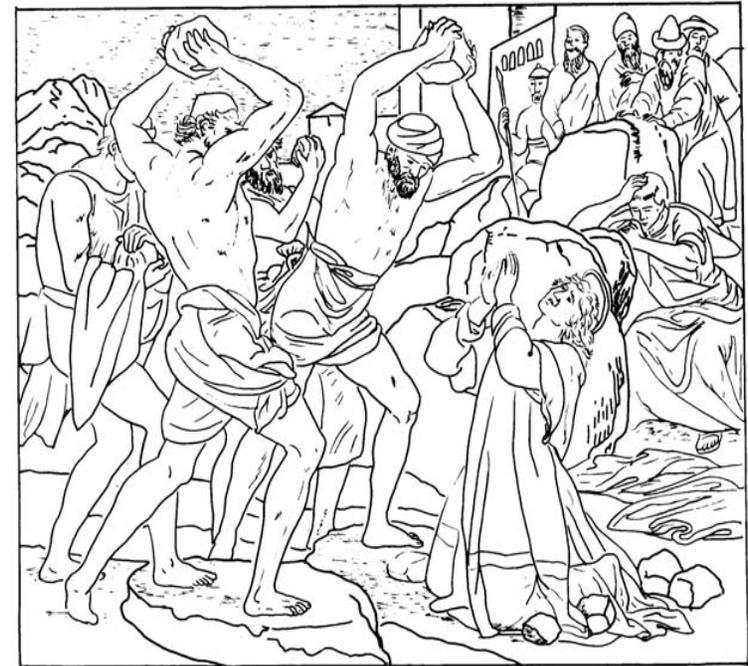


*Emmaus Bible Lessons*

Series 1: The First Three Commandments

Study #10 of 13

## Third Commandment *The Stoning of Stephen*



God says to you in the third commandment,  
“Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy”  
(Exodus 20:8).

**THIS MEANS** you must not hate or resent  
listening to God’s Word and learning it.

## Bible Reading: Acts 6:8-15, 7:51-60

### Questions and Answers For Understanding This Bible Story

#### **1. At the beginning of this Bible story, what was Stephen doing that upset so many people? How did the people react to Stephen?**

Stephen was “doing great wonders and miracles among the people.” These miracles made some people feel jealous, so they wanted to stop Stephen. They tried to argue with him, but could not win, so they made a plan to get rid of Stephen.

#### **2. What did Stephen say to the men of the council? What did the men of the council say and do when they heard these words?**

Stephen told the men of the council about Jesus and how they betrayed and killed Him. Stephen was speaking God’s Word to these men, but they did not want to hear it. They became angry. They yelled loudly and held their ears shut so that they could not hear Stephen speaking God’s Words to them.

#### **3. God says to you in His Bible, “When you accepted God’s Word... you didn’t accept it as the word of men but as the Word of God, which it really is. And it [the Word of God] is working in you who believe” (1 Thessalonians 2:13).**

##### **a. What are the dangers of refusing to listen to God’s Words and not taking them to heart?**

If you refuse to listen to God’s Words, or if you do not take His Words seriously and believe them, you end up losing the gifts and blessings that God promises you in His Words. When Stephen spoke God’s Words, the men covered their ears because they did not want to hear. Today, many people do a similar thing by not coming to worship. There is really no difference between covering your ears and not coming to worship. Either way, you do not get to hear God’s Words and you do not receive the blessings and promises God speaks to you in His Words.

##### **b. What are the benefits and blessings of listening to God’s Words, learning them, and taking them to heart?**

God gives many benefits to you when you listen to His Words and take them to heart! God’s Words bring you His gift of faith, which makes you able to believe what you hear. God uses His Words to speak forgiveness of sins to you, which was earned for you by Jesus’ death on the cross. Through His Words, God also gives you comfort and assurance, so that you may know and never doubt that you are truly His child, fully forgiven of every sin, and guaranteed to live eternally with Him in heaven forever.

#### **4. What sorts of things do people do today when they do not want to hear God’s Words? Have you also done these things?**

The men yelled and covered their ears so that they could not hear God’s Words. People today also avoid hearing God’s Words, not by plugging their ears, but by simply not going to worship. Many people say to themselves, “I do not need worship. I can read about God’s Bible instead.” But they rarely do. Because of this, many people do not hear God’s Words very often in their lives. Because of this, they miss out on the countless benefits and promises God speaks to them in His Words.

If you have not been going to worship lately, talk about it with the adults you have in your life—mom and dad, grandma and grandpa, or others. Tell them that you would like to go to worship so that you can make a new habit of hearing and receiving the benefits God gives to you when He speaks His Words to you in worship.

#### **5. Stephen’s death reminds us of Jesus’ death. Like Stephen, Jesus also prayed, “Father, forgive them” (Luke 23:34) and “Father, into Your hands I entrust My spirit” (Luke 23:46). What blessings do you receive from Jesus’ death for your sins?**

Jesus’ death on the cross fully and completely forgives you all your sins, including your sins of not wanting to hear God’s Words, learn them, and take them to heart. Jesus holds none of your sins against you! In fact, this is the very reason why God commands us to remember the Sabbath day by going to worship: Jesus wants you to know and never to doubt that He loves you, forgives you, and will be with you forever.