
VIDEO LECTURE MODULE:

**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

New Testament

**Lesson 33:
Persecution of Early Christian Church**

Lecture Presenter: Marinus Slingerland



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

New Testament

42 LESSONS

Mr. Marinus Slingerland

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32. The Growth and Persecution of the Early Christian Church
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Lesson 33

Persecution of Early Christian Church

As the early Christian church continued to grow despite the persecution by the Council, other concerns arose. The apostles heard that some of the widows were being neglected, so they called the congregation together to choose seven men, to become deacons and help care for the needy.

When Stephen, one of the deacons, did great miracles and witnessed of Christ with boldness, the Jews delivered him to the council. He became the first Christian martyr, when he was stoned to death by the Jews.

God continues to care for His Church, even in times of tribulation. Only by grace do Christians receive faith to suffer and stand for the sake of Jesus Christ .

A. Imprisonment of the Apostles – Acts 5: 17 – 42

Complete the sentences

1. The apostles were put in prison since _____

2. The apostles were brought out of prison by _____.

3. The next morning the apostles went to _____.

4. When the rulers of the Jews sent officers to the prison they found
_____.
5. Then the captain and officers went to get the apostles from
_____.
6. The high priest said that the apostles had filled Jerusalem with
_____.
7. Peter and the other apostles said that they must
_____.
8. The apostles again reminded the Jews that God had raised up Jesus whom they had
_____.
9. When the Jewish rulers heard about the resurrection of Jesus they were
_____.
10. Gamaliel warned the others that if the work of the apostles was of man it would
_____ but if it was of God they _____
_____.
11. After they had beaten the apostles they commanded them _____
_____.
12. The apostles departed and rejoiced that _____
_____.
13. The apostles continued to preach _____.

B. Deacons Chosen – Acts 6: 1-6

Answer the questions.

1. Why were the Grecian Jews murmuring?

2. Who did the apostles call together?

3. What kind of men were they supposed to look for as deacons?

4. What would the apostles continue to do?

5. What do we notice about the men they chose as deacons?

6. How were these men ordained as deacons?

C. Stephen, the First Christian Martyr – Acts 6:7 – Acts 8:2

Fill in the blanks

As the number of disciples continued to _____ (1) even some of the _____ (2) believed. Stephen, one of the _____ (3), was a man full of _____ (4) and did great _____ (5). Some of the Jews began _____ (6) with Stephen, but were not able to resist his _____ (7). They accused him of blasphemy against _____ (8). Then they brought Stephen to the _____ (9) and set up _____ (10) against him. When they looked at Stephen his face appeared as the face of _____ (11).

When the _____ (12) asked Stephen whether the accusations were true, he began his defence by speaking of _____ (13). He continued to relate how God gave the covenant of _____ (14) to Abraham. He spoke of the _____ (15) who sold Joseph and how God used him to provide for _____ (16) during the famine. He also spoke of _____ (17) who was rejected by his brethren, but was called of God to lead the children of Israel out of _____ (18). Then he spoke of how the Jews had desired Aaron to make a _____ (19) and how they were eventually carried away captive to _____ (20), for their idolatry. Finally he boldly declared that they had always been a _____ (21) people, resisting _____ (22).

When the council heard this, they were cut to the _____ (23) and gnashed their _____ (24) in anger. But Stephen was given to look up to _____ (25) and see the glory of God and _____ (26) standing at the right hand of God. They cast Stephen out of the _____ (27) and _____ (28) him. The witnesses gave their clothes to a young man named _____ (29). Stephen called upon God, saying, Lord Jesus, receive my _____ (30). He _____ (31) down and cried, _____ (32). Some _____ (33) men buried Stephen and there was great _____ (34) over him.

Discussion Questions

1. When should we obey God rather than men?

2. Compare the trial and death of Stephen with the suffering and death of Christ.
