

# God's Story Our Story

April 30, 2017



5 simple steps to help bring your household closer to God and each other



**SHARE**  
your highs and lows

Light a candle to help you focus this time as “God time.” **Share your highs and lows of the week**



**READ**  
a Bible verse or story

**A verse for the week:** *Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died. Acts 7:58-60*

*If your household includes younger children you may want to use a children's Bible story book. If the assigned reading is not in your storybook, just choose another.*

**Sunday:** *Stephen's Witness*, Acts 6:1 – 7:2a, 44-60

**Monday:** *Saul Persecutes the Church*, Acts 8:1-25

**Tuesday:** *The Conversion of Saul*, Acts 9:1-19a

**Wednesday:** *Saul Preaches in Damascus*, Acts 9:19b-31

**Thursday:** *Peter and Cornelius*, Acts 10:1-33

**Friday:** *Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit*, Acts 10:34-48

**Saturday:** *Peter in Prison*, Acts 12:1-19

Talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows. More discussion questions are on the back side.

A prayer for the week:

**Your servant Stephen was bold in the face of danger and death. Make us faithful in our witness, in the name of Jesus, Amen.**

Make the sign of the cross  
“May your witness be bold”



**TALK**  
about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows



**PRAY**  
for one another's highs and lows



**BLESS**  
one another

## More resources for being the church at home this week

Introducing Stephen, a man of spirit and grace who seems to speak with the authority of God. The powerful are known for attracting attention, but it may not be the sort that Stephen would have wanted. How far are Jesus' followers willing to go?

### A meal time prayer:

Gracious Creator we are so grateful to be surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. May we be as faithful and loving to you as you are with us! Amen.

### More questions for conversation:

1. How have the duties in your faith community been distributed? How might you do things differently to best honor the gifts of those in your community?
2. What role do you play at home, at work, or at church? How are you best using your gifts to do God's work in the world? Are you doing what God has created you to do, or is it time for a change?

### Ideas for putting faith in action:

By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive.

Keep a calendar this week of everything you do. Include trips to the grocery store and time spent on your phone or TV. At the end of the week, evaluate your calendar. How is your time reflecting your values? Make one change next week so your time honors your values.

Organize and run a food drive at your church, asking members to donate. After a few weeks, take the food to a local pantry

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