

**Summary:** The Church is growing. The priest are angry and arrest and stone Stephen. But as a result the Church spreads from Jerusalem and continues to grow.

**Read Before:** Acts 6 & 7, Acts of Apostles 87-102, Early Writings 197-199, Bible Story V10 p31-34

**Aim:** God can bring good from bad.

1. *What do I already know?* ☐ Listen / Talk ☐ See ☒ Do

**Have a map of the local area on a pin-board.**

**Have children write their name** on a strip of paper and pin it to the map where they live. Pin on the edge of the map if they live beyond the shown region.

2. *Tell story / give facts.* ☐ Listen / Talk ☒ See ☐ Do

**Show a map of Jerusalem and surrounding towns. Highlight Jerusalem.**

**Say:** This is where the disciples lived. More and more people were believing in Jesus. There were soon so many believers that the disciples had to organise special helpers to help with the needs of the new church. One of these helpers (who were called Deacons) was Stephen. The priests were very angry with the way that Jesus followers were growing. They arrested Stephen and brought him to court. But Stephen wasn't upset, instead he told them all about Jesus, then suddenly Stephen looked up and his face became shiny and he said he could see into heaven and he could see Jesus sitting next to God. The priests were so angry they forced him outside and they killed him.

**Say:** Does that sound like something good to happen to the church? No! – But God used it for something good. Many Christians fled from Jerusalem but as they went to other towns they started preaching, and now even more people became Christians.

**Highlight some of the towns surrounding Jerusalem to show how it spread.**

3. *Review / how does it apply today?* ☐ Listen / Talk ☐ See ☒ Do

**Craft: Spread God's Word Fan.**

Hold sample fan closed and say: "This doesn't look like it could blow any wind does it?" Spread the fan and say "What about now?"

**Print out, colour, zigzag fold, tape end.**

4. *What can this become / what can we do?* ☒ Listen / Talk ☐ See ☒ Do

**Discuss:** What the children can do to spread the news of Jesus in their neighbourhood.

**Discuss:** How your actions at home teach about Jesus.

**Give:** Brochures that the children can take home and letter box.