

## **STEPHEN** (based on Acts 6:6 -7:6)

---

**S**tephen, filled with the power of God's Spirit, did marvellous work among the Jewish people in Jerusalem who had come from North Africa and Asia. Many of them were in Jerusalem on pilgrimage. Some of them tried to argue with Stephen but they found it too difficult. Stephen was very wise and the Holy Spirit was with him. They were angry and told lies about Stephen.

They turned the scribes and elders against him as well as some of the people. Stephen was arrested. When Stephen stood up in court he spoke for a long time about the ways in which they had refused to listen to God and to God's messengers.

He told the judge and the people about Jesus but they did not want to listen. They put their hands over their ears. Then they charged at him and dragged him outside the city. There they threw stones at him until he was dead. A young man called Saul watched. He was taking care of their cloaks. Before he died Stephen said: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Do not blame them for what they have done."

## **IN SAMARIA** (based on Acts 8:14-17)

---

**T**he apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people in Samaria had received the Good News, so they sent Peter and John to them. When Peter and John arrived they laid hands on those who had been baptised in the name of Jesus and they received the Holy Spirit.

## **PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL** (based on Acts 8:26-30, 34-38)

---

**P**hilip was a follower of Jesus. One day he went walking on the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza. A chariot passed him. In it was an officer of the court of the Queen of Ethiopia. This man was reading one of the books of the Bible: the book of the prophet Isaiah.

God's spirit spoke to Philip, saying, "Go to meet that chariot."

When he reached the chariot, Philip heard the Ethiopian reading the words of Isaiah: "Do you understand what you are reading?" asked Philip. "How can I understand unless I have someone to help me?" he replied.

He asked Philip to help him.

"Come up here beside me," he said. Philip did as he asked.