



Name: _____

Date: Sunday 13th September 2020



Acts
7:1-8:3

Listen carefully to what Greg says and fill in the gaps.



The book of Acts was written for a man called _____

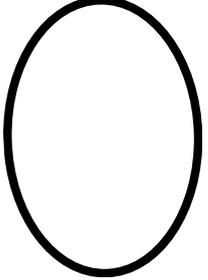


who believed in Jesus but probably had lots of _____

He would have seen **h_st_l_t_**
and **d_u_si_** as some of the Jews
were **p_s_c_**ing others for
believing **J_s_s** is the **M_ss_h**.



How do you think he would have felt?



Stephen's speech helps Theophilus, and us, learn how to respond to persecution.

1 Realise that **h_st_l_t_** to what **G_** is doing through his special **r_sc_r** is nothing **n_**.

Draw a circle around anyone Greg mentions who God sent to **rescue**, and put a **cross** on their names every time Greg says they were **rejected**.
(You could draw something that reminds you of what happened to them, too.)

Moses

Joseph

Jesus

At every point, some people in Israel have **r_j_**ed the ones God sent to **s_e**.

2 Realise that **h_st_l_t_** to what **G_** is doing comes from **h_d h_**ts.

The problem is **not** with the **ev_**ce.

Fill in the gaps and draw some of the things Jesus did that proved who he is:

amazing
t_ch_g

awesome
m_r_cl_s

glorious
r_s_rr_c_n

his work through
the ap_st_s

The problem is the people didn't **l_** God or **l_**n to him.



We can see here that sometimes people say they are God's people, but they do bad things.

 What does that teach us? *(Listen to what Greg says, and put a tick or a cross in each box.)*  

God is bad

Sinful humans can be very evil

We can't trust what God says



The Jews in this passage are not the only ones with hard hearts. Everyone who says no to God and pushes Jesus away needs to ask God to **f_r_g_ _ _** them and give them **new l_f_!**



3 Stephen's example teaches us how to **r_sp_ _d** to persecution...

→ Stephen maintained his **w_t_ _ss** to **J_s_s** right to the very end.

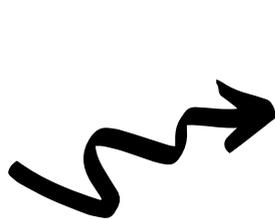
Even when he faced **d_ _g_r,**  he kept **sp_ _ _ing**  about **J_ _ _ _**. 

→ Stephen **entr_ _ _ed** his spirit to **Chr_ _t** in **d_ _th**.

We will only be able to face suffering for the gospel if we know **d_ _ _ _** is not the **e_ _** - we will go to be safe with **J_ _ _ _**. 

→ Stephen **pr_ _ed**  for his persecutors, following **J_ _ _s'** **ex_ _p_ _**.

...and we know God **h_ _ _d** his prayer because we see what happens to **S_ _l** in the rest of the book of Acts...!



Spoiler alert:



Saul will be **p_ w_ r_f_ lly** converted to **Chr_ _ _**!

Chat with a grown up

1. Show them your sheet!
2. Ask about anything you didn't quite understand...
3. Talk together about these questions:

- How does this story help us to have confidence in Jesus, and in God's plan?
- Do you think people face persecution for trusting Jesus today?
- Which bit of Stephen's example would you find it hardest to follow? Why? You could pray for God's help with that. And...

Pray with a grown up: You could **thank God** that he softens hearts and helps us listen to him, and **ask for his help** to keep listening to him, trusting Jesus and speaking about Jesus, even if we face persecution. 