

# SALT & LIGHT

*Build character and stand up for what you believe*

## COURAGE

After September 11, 2001 Americans were confronted with a new perspective on heroism and courage. Firefighters and policemen, EMTs and everyday citizens stood out as heroes at a time when many of us had come to think that “hero” was just a sandwich and courage was something to read about in comic books.

### Know Yourself

What does it take to be brave? Do you have it? How can having courage affect a life? How has someone’s courage affected yours? How can you exhibit courage in your daily living??

### Know the Word

**Read:** Acts 7.48-60

1. How do you think Stephen exhibited courage?
2. Why do you think that he was so brave?
3. What, in your mind, makes Stephen’s courage outstanding?

**Remember It!:** *“But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and said, ‘Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.’”* Acts 7.55-56 (CEV)

**Read More!** (if you dare): Deuteronomy 31.6; 1 Chronicles 28.20; 1 Corinthians 16.13

### Know Others

It’s chilling to think about the courage one young, extraordinary—yet somehow ordinary—woman had to exhibit when faced with the question “Do you believe in God?” But it wasn’t her rep that was on the line it was her life. She said Yes ... and so did three other young Littleton, CO Christians. They were Rachel Joy Scott, John Tomlin, and Danny Rohrbough.

“You really can’t live without Christ. It’s like, impossible to really have a really true life without Him.” —Cassie Bernal, martyr at Columbine High School. This statement was recorded a few days before her faith was put to the ultimate test.

(Source: Mike McManus, [www.marriagesavers.org/Columns/C923.htm](http://www.marriagesavers.org/Columns/C923.htm). Views of the publication do not necessarily reflect those of American Bible Society.)

### The Choice Is Yours

You can be courageous even if you haven’t exhibited your bravery before. It’s more about thinking of others before thinking about yourself and about standing up for the right thing.

The next time you see someone being picked on, forget about how you’ll look and befriend him or her. It can make the difference. Or maybe your friends want you to drink, smoke or do drugs. Go against their flow—save your health. Your body will thank you for it. Remember, you may be faced with all kinds of temptations, but it really takes guts to go against the grain for the right thing. Ask God to help you in this area, and I’m sure you’ll act in courage more often than not.