



# The Martyrs



## THE MISSION AIM

To help recruits know that sometimes heroes of the faith are called to suffer and die for their faith.



## KEY VERSE

**John 16:33:** "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."



## Pre-Mission Activity



## Supplies Needed

- Map or globe from previous week
- "What is a Missionary?" Poster from previous week. Spend a couple of minutes adding the names of the Canadian missionaries onto the poster.

## Directions

**SAY:** Last week we were learning about missionaries that have left their homeland and live all around the world. Each of you took home a name and an address of a missionary from Canada. Did you bring back your letters? Excellent. If you forgot your letter this week than please be sure to write your letter and return it next week. It is important that each missionary be remembered in prayer and that they are encouraged. I know that your letters are going to do just that - encourage our Canadian missionaries.

**SAY:** Well, to begin this week, we are going to play a game called, "Around the World." To play this game I need all of you to sit in a circle. Now I am going to choose one of you to try and go "around the world." What you will need to do is to stand behind someone in the circle. The person you are standing behind is your competitor. I will point at a country on the map/globe. The two of you will try to remember the name of that country and will yell it out. The first to yell it out will move behind the next person in the circle. (Note: If the person standing is the winner, he/she will simply move to stand behind the next person sitting in the circle. If the person sitting in the circle is the winner, then he/she will trade spots with the person standing behind them and will then move to stand behind the next person in the circle. The object is to see how far one recruit can move around the circle thus going "around the world.")

**SAY:** Okay, let's see if we can remember the names of some of the countries where our Canadian missionaries are living.

**DO:** Begin to play the game being sure that the recruits cannot read the names of the country off the map or globe. Play the game for a few minutes giving opportunity for a few recruits to try and move around the world. Be sure that each recruit has at least had the opportunity to "compete"

before completing the game. The recruit that moves the furthest around the circle has then moved the furthest “around the world” and is declared the winner.

**SAY:** Well done, recruits. It is difficult to remember the names of all of the countries where our missionaries are serving but I think you did a great job.

**SAY:** We should probably check in with the Recon Team and see what they are doing today. Are you ready recruits?



### Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: “Season 3 – Faith Heroes Episode 4: The Martyrs”

Play “Faith Heroes (S3) Episode 4 (1/3)”. Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have FH-Episode\_4-The\_Martyrs.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



### Mission #1



#### Supplies Needed

- Bibles
- Large chart paper or pieces of paper posted close to where you will be reading the story of Stephen
- Small pieces of paper or post-it notes
- Tape if using paper
- Two different coloured markers or pens
- Poster board with the title “What is a Martyr?” written on it



#### Mission Assignment

**SAY:** Let’s have a drumroll for Mission #1. (Reading mission card from satellite uplink) “People call Stephen a martyr. What does it mean to be a martyr? Recruits, discover how Stephen was a hero of the faith.”

**SAY:** Marco asked a good question. Does every Christian become a martyr? The answer was no but it does make us think about those Christians who have lost their lives because of their faith. Stephen was the first martyr. We read in Acts 6:5 that Stephen was full of faith and of the Holy Spirit. The first time we hear of him in God’s Word is shortly after Jesus has died. The stories of Jesus are fresh in people’s minds and those that witnessed Jesus while he was on earth were able to share what they saw. Stephen believed in and shared these stories with others.



**SAY:** Now, I would like you to listen as I read the story of Stephen to you. I am going to read it through once while you simply listen. You can close your eyes, sit back, lie down, or whatever you want as you listen to this story.

**DO:** Read Acts 6:8-15.

**SAY:** When asked if these charges were true, Stephen answered by telling them some of the history of the people. He then said: (read Acts 7:51-60).

**SAY:** Now you have heard the story of Stephen once. I am going to read the story to you a second time but first I am going to split you into two groups. As I read the story to you, I want you to work with your group to write down all that you learn about Stephen. Only write one thing about Stephen on a piece of paper. Each group will have a different coloured marker to work with to identify what you have learned. Think of some of these questions as you are listening. Why was Stephen stoned? Who did he trust? Why wasn't he afraid? Okay, are you ready?

**DO:** Read through the verses again. Pause briefly as needed but you do not want to drag this out too long.

**SAY:** Okay, now I want each group to post all of their papers up here on my bigger paper.

**DO:** Help the recruits post their papers as needed.

**SAY:** I would like each group to share one thing that they learned at a time. We will allow one group to share and then the second group to share a different point. If something is shared about Stephen that your group also wrote down, simply remove your group's paper from the board. Let's see how many different points we will have on the board when we are through.

**DO:** Allow the groups to go back and forth sharing what they have learned about Stephen. Once all the points have been shared, review what is left on the board.

**SAY:** Stephen was the first Christian martyr that we hear about. We first learn of Stephen shortly after Jesus has died. Stephen trusts in Jesus and is full of the Holy Spirit. As a result of this, Stephen is able to perform miracles. The power of the Holy Spirit is with him. Stephen was not afraid to witness for Jesus for he was full of faith. He had witnessed the power of God and prayed to God. Even at the time of his death Stephen prayed to God and God gave him peace through showing him a glimpse of Jesus and Heaven. He was strong and courageous even at the time of his death.

**SAY:** Our key verse, John 16:33 talks about this peace that God gives. Here's what it says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Stephen had peace because he was full of the Holy Spirit and full of faith.

**SAY:** Let's put our thoughts down on our poster. What is a Martyr?

**DO:** Allow kids to answer and have them either write down the main points or you write them on the poster. (Is someone who is tortured or killed because of their faith? Include the name of the



Martyrs that you learn about today beginning with Stephen. A martyr also includes the idea of choice – to die rather than renounce or deny their faith.)

**SAY:** We should send this in to the Recon Team now. They will be waiting on what we have learned from the story of Stephen. HMMM, I wonder if Christie ever convinced Michael to go skydiving. That seems pretty scary to me.



## Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play “Faith Heroes (S3) Episode 4 (2/3)”. Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.



## Mission #2



### Supplies Needed

- Blankets, towels, sheets, cloth, or large items to cover hidden information
- Jim Elliot Information Cards template – glue them onto cardstock or cardboard to make them more durable (see attachment pages 7 and 8)



### Mission Assignment

**SAY:** It’s time for our second mission. Let’s read it together (reading mission card from satellite uplink) “For this mission, uncover the story of Jim Elliot and find out what happened after his death.”

**SAY:** Well recruits, our mission is to “uncover” the story of Jim Elliot and to find out what happened after his death. We are going to “uncover” this information by literally uncovering it.

**DO:** Explain the game to the recruits using the Jim Elliot Information Cards template.

**SAY:** Once you have “uncovered” a card with information on it, bring it to me so that we can all read it together. Let’s uncover the story of Jim Elliot.

**DO:** When all of the cards have been located, have the recruits sit in a circle. The cards are numbered so begin by having recruits help you place them in numerical order. Ask for help in reading the cards to learn about Jim Elliot.

**SAY:** I find this story of Jim Elliot and his missionary friends to be rather amazing. They were called by God to spread His gospel to a place that was known as dangerous. Yet, they followed God’s leading and they went into that jungle to teach the Auca Indians. Although each of the missionaries did have a gun, together they had chosen not to harm the Auca with them. When something went wrong, and they did not know what that was, the missionaries did not shoot



at them but gave their own lives. Elisabeth and Rachel were later able to continue Jim Elliot and the men's work and did in fact teach the Auca people about God. Isn't it amazing to know that those people thought as unreachable, now know the truth of the Grace of Jesus Christ?

**SAY:** Should we add anything to our Martyrs poster? How about the names of the five missionaries? Jim Elliot, Ed McCully, Nate Saint, Pete Fleming and Roger Youderian

**SAY:** Well Recruits, we need to send all of this information back in to the Recon Team.



### Mission Uplink 3



**YouTube:** Play "Faith Heroes (S3) Episode 4 (3/3)". Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

**PPT:** Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



### Field Mission Project



### Supplies Needed

- Map or Globe from last week and beginning of lesson
- Refer to the Canadian missionaries that you have already learned about. Are there political hardships that they are going through at the present time? Egypt, Africa, Pakistan

### Mission Project

**SAY:** Let's hear it for our final mission for today! (Reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Recruits, pray for those that have been persecuted and who continue to live in danger because of their faith in Jesus Christ."

**SAY:** It is difficult to hear about people who have been killed because of their faith. I want us to take some time to celebrate the work of Jim Elliot and the other missionaries who worked and continue to work down in Ecuador.

**DO:** Locate Ecuador on the map and show the recruits the area where the Auca Indians live.

**SAY:** So much has been done here to reach people that were once thought unreachable. Yes, lives were lost but because of the work of these people, lives were also found. The Auca now live in peace with God and that is wonderful.

**SAY:** Let's spend some time in prayer. First, let's thank God for the work already done. Let's thank him for those who have lost their lives for doing His will.





Today's PRAYER HUDDLE is incorporated into the Field Mission Project.

**DO:** Pray and allow the recruits the opportunity to pray as well.

**SAY:** We recently learned about many Canadian missionaries. Some of these missionaries are also going through difficulties and are in dangerous situations even as we speak.

**DO:** Show one or two countries presently having political hardships. (at present, Egypt would be one of these).

**SAY:** It is important that we remember these people and pray for them. We want to ask God to be with them, to guide them in their thoughts, words and actions, to protect them and help them as they do His work this day.

**DO:** Pray again, you may begin or you may allow the recruits to pray.

**SAY:** Thank you recruits for all of your great work today.

## FAITH HERO TRADING CARDS

### Supplies Needed

- Copies of Martyrs cards for each recruit: Stephen, Sarah Broadhurst, Jim Elliot, William Tyndale, Maximillian Kolbe, Anne Askew, Paul Miki and Perpetua. Print front and back on card stock, if possible, and cut apart (see attachment pages 9 and 10)

### Directions

**SAY:** I have a set of cards for each of you with the heroes of the faith that we have heard and learned about today. You will also discover that there are five extra faith hero martyrs that have been included. They are Anne Askew, Paul Miki, Maximillian Kolbe, William Tyndale and Perpetua. Take these cards home with you today. Read them over and see how much information you can remember about each hero.



An additional resource you may find helpful in preparing for this lesson is the Christian History magazine Issue 109: Eyewitnesses to the modern Age of Persecution. Visit: <https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/issue/109-persecuted-church/>

## NOTES

**Websites to share with your recruits:**

**KidsofCourage.com** (from Voice of the Martyrs)

The Persecuted Church - International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church - register at **IDOP.org**



## Jim Elliot Information Cards Template

To learn about Jim Elliot the recruits need to literally uncover the information. Before class time you will need to bury the following information cards under the blankets, towels, sheets, cloth or whatever items you have found to do this. One or two cards could be placed under each stack of material.

The recruits need to uncover the information but the trick to this is, and to make it more of a challenge, that they cannot use their hands or feet to move the material. They can use their elbows, knees, chins, head but not their hands or their feet. Only suggest the other parts of their body if you find they are having difficulty figuring out what to do.

For older children, you may want to make it even more of a challenge by tying two recruits' legs together as in a three-legged race. Or you could tell them that they can only use their elbow or their nose to uncover the information.

1. Jim Elliot is born in Oregon in October of 1927.

2. Jim always knew God had a purpose for his life and he wanted to be prepared in every way for that which God called him to do. He played football and stayed physically fit as a part of keeping prepared to go wherever God asked him to go.

3. September of 1945 Jim enters Wheaton College in Illinois and here he meets his friend David Howard and David's sister Elisabeth. Elisabeth will become Jim's wife later on.

4. Jim goes on his first mission trip to Mexico and there begins an interest in the people of Latin America.

5. Jim feels that God is leading his missionary work to be that of Tribal work in the South American Jungle.

6. February of 1952 Jim travels to Ecuador to begin his ministry there with one of his friends, Pete.

7. Elisabeth joins him in Ecuador in April of 1952.

8. Jim and a group of his friends (Ed, Pete, Roger and Nate) feel led to spread God's gospel to the Auca Indians. They are known as the most primitive and savage people on the Earth. It was known that the Auca killed any persons that entered into their jungle.
9. Jim Elliot and the other Christian Missionaries believe that this is what God is calling them to do. To begin, they make contact with the Auca simply by flying their plane in circles above the jungle where their homes are.
10. They begin to lower down gifts onto the beach in hopes of gaining the Auca's trust and to show they are friends.
11. After weeks of doing this, they land the plane on a beach and set up home there. In the days that followed a couple of women came to visit, followed by a man, followed by other Auca Indians. The missionaries wanted desperately to tell them about Christ but only knew a few phrases of the Auca language.
12. On January 8, 1956, the Aucas arrived on the beach and savagely killed all five missionaries. The missionaries had guns but had previously made the decision that they would not use them to save their lives so they did not make any attempt to shoot at the Auca.
13. Elisabeth (Jim's wife) and Rachel (Nate's sister) decided that they would stay in Ecuador and would continue to spread the gospel to the Auca people. They made their home among the Auca and were passionate about taking the gospel to these unreached people.
14. The Auca did come to learn about Christ and nine years after the death of the five missionaries, the Gospel of Mark was published in the Auca language.





**Anne Askew**

**Martyrs +**



**Paul Milki**

**Martyrs +**



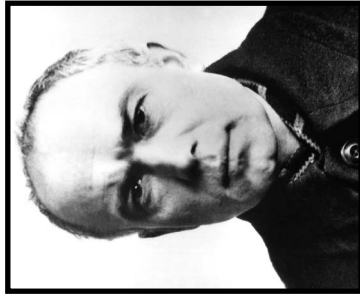
**Stephen**

**Martyrs +**



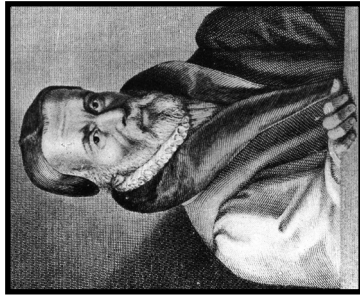
**James "Jim" Elliot**

**Martyrs +**



**Maximilian Kolbe**

**Martyrs +**



**William Tyndale**

**Martyrs +**



**Perpetua**

**Martyrs +**



**Sarah Broadhurst**

**Martyrs +**

**NAME:** Philip James Elliot  
**BORN:** 8 October, 1927  
in Portland, Oregon, USA

**CAREER:** Missionary

**FAMOUS FOR:**

Being killed while taking the good news about Jesus to native people in Ecuador. After he died, his wife went back to the same people to keep teaching them.

**DIED:** 8 January, 1956

**NAME:** Stephen

**LIVED:** During the first century A.D. in the Roman Empire.

**CAREER:**

Deacon, evangelist

**FAMOUS FOR:**

He was chosen as one of seven men to minister to the early church. He was such an amazing speaker that nobody could argue against him. He was put on trial by the Jewish leaders, and stoned to death. Stephen forgave his killers. He was the first Christian martyr.

**NAME:** Paul Miki

**BORN:** Around 1562  
in Japan

**CAREER:**

Catholic preacher

**FAMOUS FOR:**

Paul was a preacher, born into a wealthy family, and taught by Jesuit priests. When the Japanese ruler began persecuting Christians he was crucified with 25 others. He said: "The only reason I am condemned to die is that I have taught the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am happy to die for such a cause..."

**DIED:** 5 February 1597

**NAME:** Anne Askew

**BORN:** Around 1521  
in Stallingborough, England

**CAREER:**

Protestant preacher

**FAMOUS FOR:**

Anne grew up reading and memorizing the Bible. She was forced to get married after her sister died. She had two children, then her husband kicked her out because of her beliefs. She was happy to leave and became a preacher. Her husband had her arrested; she was tortured, then burned at the stake.

**DIED:** 16 July 1546

**NAME:** Sarah Broadhurst

(or Broadbent)

**BORN:** Around 1848  
in England

**CAREER:**

Salvation Army Officer

**FAMOUS FOR:**

Leading a Salvation Army meeting during riots against The Salvation Army's work. She later died as a result of her injuries.

**DIED:** 6 February 1892

**NAME:** Perpetua

**BORN:** around 181 AD  
in Carthage, Roman Empire (Tunisia)

**CAREER:** Noblewoman,

mother

**FAMOUS FOR:**

An early Christian martyr, she put her faith in Christ ahead of her duties as a wife and mother. She wrote a diary about her time in prison before her death which inspired many people.

**DIED:** around 203 AD

**NAME:** William Tyndale

**BORN:** around 1494  
in North Nibley, England

**CAREER:** Theologian,  
priest

**FAMOUS FOR:**

Translating the Bible into common English. He knew 8 languages, and went against the Catholic Church by translating the Bible so regular people could read it. Was arrested and burned at the stake for treason.

**DIED:**

around October 6, 1536

**NAME:** Maximilian Kolbe

**BORN:** 8 January 1894  
in Zduńska Wola, Poland

**CAREER:**

Franciscan Friar

**FAMOUS FOR:**

He hid people from the Nazis in WWII and was put into a concentration camp. He took the place of a man chosen to die in punishment for an escape. After two weeks with no food or water, he was the only man left alive. He was then killed by lethal injection.

**DIED:** 14 August 1941