

Acts-Revelation

Stephen stands up for Jesus Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-60

Younger Verse

I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11

Older Verse

I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11

Welcome Time

Make sure each person is welcomed and feels loved.

Bible Story

*The following is a summary of the Bible story to help you with your preparation. It is **NOT** to be read to the children. Instead, use your Bible to explain the story. Make a note page to help you remember your plans for the lesson or questions you wanted to ask.*

After Jesus went to Heaven, more and more people believed in Jesus. One special man was Stephen. God blessed Stephen and he did many amazing miracles. He was also able to share helpful words with others.

Some of the religious teachers did not like Stephen. They did not believe that Jesus was alive and they did not like what Stephen was saying and doing.

They paid some men to spread lies about Stephen. When the people heard these rumors, they began to watch Stephen closely. They were looking for Stephen to do something wrong. Instead, he continued to stand up for Jesus and his faith. In fact, some people said that his face looked like an angel because he obeyed God and knew that God was with him.

The teachers brought Stephen into their meeting room to ask him questions. Stephen answered by sharing many stories from the Old Testament. This is the first part of the Bible before Jesus was born.

Stephen shared how God helped many people even when some of them turned their back on Him. Stephen told about all the men who followed God and did what He said even though they were not sure what was next.

Finally, Stephen told the men that they were stubborn and would not believe in Jesus. He told them that their fathers hurt God's people and even killed Jesus.

The men got very angry. Stephen looked up and saw Heaven. He also saw God and Jesus. He told the men what he saw.

When the men heard this, they were furious! They grabbed Stephen and took him outside the city wall. They were so angry that they threw big stones at him until he died.

Teachers: Little children may be very disturbed about the stoning scene in the story. It may be better to only share how Stephen stood up for what he believed no matter what would happen.

Lesson Goals

Explain what it means to die for what you believe
Share how a person can go to Heaven

While they were throwing stones, Stephen prayed to God and asked God to forgive the men that were killing him, just like Jesus did on the cross!

On that day, many leaders began to hurt the people who believed in Jesus. But this did not stop them. The people who believed in Jesus continued to grow and grow. People wanted to share the good news of Jesus with everyone they met because they knew that it would change their life.

What about you? Do you believe in Jesus? Stephen stood up for what he believed. He knew that Jesus was the only way for someone to go to Heaven. To go to Heaven, we must believe in Jesus and ask God to forgive all the wrong things we have done. We must begin to start doing things God's way and talk to Him in prayer. If you want to know more, please let us help you know what being a Christian is all about.

Learning Activities

Be sensitive to the kids. Ask them questions about the lesson. Be sure they do not become scared of what happened. It might make them NOT want to share their beliefs with others. Be sure they see how Stephen stood up for what he believed.

Memory Verse Activities

Bring plastic cups for each person and write a word of the verse on each cup. Line up the kids into two teams giving each person a cup (with a word of the verse on it). Now, let both teams try to quickly put the verse in order (each person holding their cup with the verse word on it in the correct order).

Prayer Time

Pray and ask God to give us courage to share Jesus with others like Stephen did.

Clean Up/Snack time

Enjoy snacks and get to know the kids better.

Planning for February 15th
Philip and the Ethiopian
Acts 8:26-39

Preschool Lesson
For
Stephen

(Teachers: This lesson is quite graphic for smaller kids. It will be best to focus on how Stephen followed God and told others about Him.)

Stephen was a man who loved Jesus very much. He wanted everyone to know how much God loved them. Stephen would tell people about Jesus wherever he went. If he went to the market, he would excitedly tell about Jesus. If he went to the church, he would share his good news. He loved telling people about how wonderful Jesus was.

People loved to hear about Jesus. In fact, they said that when Stephen told them about Jesus, his face would shine like an angel! Stephen obeyed God and stood up for what God said. Some people watched him to see if he would do something wrong when no one was looking. Guess what! Stephen did what was right! He followed God all the time and treated people kindly.

God wants us to tell others about Jesus like Stephen did. God smiled down on us when we help others know how much He loved them!

Sing, “God is so good” or “My best friend is Jesus.”

Hands-On Activities For Stephen

As a fun game, bring Cotton Balls and plastic spoons. Form two teams and have a relay race. Each team has to balance a cotton ball on a spoon and walk to a spot and return without dropping the cotton ball. Try to vary the game to make it more fun!

For older kids, give each child a piece of newspaper and let them secretly write something that they would like to ask God to forgive them for. Now let them wad up the papers and try throwing them into the trashcan (and try to make it in!) (Make sure no one looks at other's papers) Now share how Jesus can totally erase all the bad things we have done, when we ask Him.

Bring Stones (or look for some at the complex). Let them paint or write on the stone the word "Forgiveness." Talk about how Stephen forgave the men who hurt him and even asked God to forgive them.

Roasted marshmallows look similar to stones. Roast marshmallows if that is feasible and enjoy yummy snacks!

For older kids, ask the kids if they know what the word "Martyr" means. Share that it is a person who dies for something he or she believes in. Ask them if they know anyone in the past history who has died for what they believed in like Stephen did.

The people in the Bible story noticed that Stephen's face looked an angel. Draw a picture of what Stephen looked like.
