

KIDTOWN GUIDE

1st-5th Grades

DATE: 1/17/21

SCRIPTURE: Acts 6-7

LESSON: Stephen's Sermon



INTRO

Parents say to your kid(s) - Last week we talked about what it means to live like Jesus lived. Today we're going to talk about a man named Stephen who *did* live like Jesus lived.

Optional Activity - Kids love to learn in concrete ways. This activity is a simple object lesson to help your kids interact with the Bible story they're about to learn.

Try and remember a time when you were really, REALLY upset with someone, a time where someone had hurt you so badly that you didn't want to forgive them.

Say - Today, we are going to learn about a time when Stephen forgave people who did something VERY terrible to him.



LESSON - STEPHEN'S SERMON

Watch the Gospel Project Bible video: [Stephen's Sermon](#)

Story Point #1: (Kids repeat!)

The Jewish leaders lied about Stephen. (Kids repeat!)

The Bible tells us Stephen was a good man, full of God's Spirit and wisdom. God even gave him the power to do miracles! He was living like Jesus, (like we talked about last week), but sometimes when we live like Jesus, it makes people mad. That's what happened with Stephen. Some Jewish leaders came and argued with him. The Holy Spirit gave Stephen so much wisdom that they couldn't win the argument! But when they couldn't win the argument, they got even more mad. They made up lies about Stephen. They said he was speaking against God, and they took him to court.

Story Point #2: (Kids repeat!)

The Jewish leaders rejected Stephen. (Kids repeat!)

The high priest of the court asked Stephen if the lies were true. Stephen responded by preaching a sermon explaining that Jesus was the Messiah God had promised in the Old Testament. He told them that just like their ancestors didn't believe the prophets and killed them, they had done the same thing to Jesus. Stephen told them what was true, but the leaders had convinced themselves that it wasn't true. They rejected Stephen and all the truth he was telling them. In fact, they hated what he was saying so much that they covered their ears and screamed at him!

Story Point #3: (Kids repeat!)

The Jewish leaders killed Stephen. (Kids repeat!)

The Jewish leaders were spiritually blind. They couldn't see what was really true about Jesus. Stephen told them it wasn't just him they weren't listening to, it was God they weren't listening to. The Jewish leaders were so angry about what Stephen was saying that they took him outside to stone him to death. But Stephen did something really incredible. While the leaders were throwing stones at him to kill him, he asked God to forgive them. He knew that they didn't understand the truth, and he had compassion for them. How is that possible?!

Christ Connection! (Kids repeat!)

Like Stephen in this story, Jesus forgives His enemies. (kids repeat)

Did you know the Bible says that in our sin, we are enemies of God (Rom. 5:8-10)?

Like the Jewish leaders we reject God, because we want to do what we want.

We believe lies about God and ourselves.

Sin is not just that we do bad things sometimes... It's that in our hearts we set ourselves against God.

But this is the great news of the gospel: while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us!! (Rom. 5:8) Just like Stephen forgave the Jewish leaders - even though they were lying about him and rejecting him - Jesus offers us forgiveness through the cross.



RESPONSE

Sing: [Life and Godliness](#) (Key Passage Song)
[He Must Increase](#)

Pray: Jesus, thank you for forgiving us when we didn't deserve it. Help us to remember that there have been times when we were spiritually blind and you had mercy on us. Help us to forgive others and to show mercy like you did.

Discuss:

- What stood out to you from this story? *Let kids answer. Non-spiritual answers are okay--we want them to interact with Scripture, not just regurgitate facts.*
- Why couldn't the Jewish leaders win an argument against Stephen? *The Holy Spirit had filled him with wisdom.*
- How do you think Stephen knew all of the stuff he said to the High Priest? *He read and memorized a lot of scripture.*
- What does it mean to be "spiritually blind?" *Someone can't see what is true or sometimes doesn't want to see what is true.*
- Can you remember a time when you really didn't want to forgive someone? What makes us feel like that? What have we forgotten when we feel like that? Can you remember a time when you knew you messed up and someone was forgiving and gracious to you? How did that make you feel?
- Does anyone have any questions? Was anything about this lesson confusing?
 - *Allow time for questions and if you don't know the answers, that's okay. Let them know that you don't know but will try to find out.*
 - *If you have any questions you are really stumped on, feel free to email us at kidtown@midtowncolumbia.com.*



BONUS ACTIVITIES

Coloring Sheet - [Printable Coloring Sheet](#) of Stephen.

Parent Share - Tell about a time when you were either spiritually blind and rejecting God's truth in your life. How did Jesus open your eyes and change your heart?

Silent Ball - The object of this game is to be the last person still in. Sit in a circle and throw a ball or small stuffed animal to each other. There are only three rules:

- 1) If you do a bad throw, you're out.
- 2) If you miss a catch, you're out.
- 3) If you talk AT ALL, you're out. So once the game starts, any communication has to be non-verbal.