



# The Stoning of Stephen

**Acts 6 -7**

**Running time:** Approximately 6 minutes

**Set:** The set for Units 1-4 is designed to look like the interior of the spaceship Skylab Omega. There are colored Plexiglas panels with lights behind them, computer parts, knobs, buttons, and a built-in view screen. The Command Center is on B-deck (upper level or stage right). A-deck (lower level or stage left) has a sliding entrance upstage center and a teleport. There is a tube where messages and the Bible can be received. The Virtual Bible is a screen or monitor displaying the Bible verses in the script. For extra fun, build windows where characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

**Characters:** Professor von Himmel is a wise but scatterbrained scientist who loves God. He has a German accent. Dr. Helga Sominex is a quirky scientist who has a tendency to fall asleep mid-sentence. She has a German accent.

**Plot:** Dr. Helga Sominex attempts to fly Skylab Omega so she can be as bold as Commander Cosmos. We learn that the Holy Spirit helped Stephen be faithful and boldly defend Jesus even in the face of death.

**Costumes:** Professor von Himmel wears a lab coat, shorts, patterned shirt, slippers, white wig, and glasses. Dr. Sominex wears a lab coat, skirt, blouse, pigtails, and glasses.

**Props:** Clipboard, Bible

## **Sound effects (SFX):**

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: Space-themed songs
2. Snoring
3. Brakes screeching
4. Plexiglas window suggestion: Handel's Messiah "Hallelujah Chorus." Music plays when window is opened to reveal Bible
5. Computer keyboard typing sounds. (For more humorous elements, add SFX such as cowbell, foghorn, etc.)
6. Virtual Bible theme suggestion: "Close Encounters" Theme

## **Visual effects (VFX):**

1. Video Intro featuring space ships and rockets available at ResourceWell.org
2. Sliding Plexiglas window holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
3. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): ***While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:59-60***
4. Closing Slide: "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!"
5. Fall back slide: Traveling rocket ship

## **Adaptations:**

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form at ResourceWell.org

**Commander Cosmos**  
**Unit 1, Lesson 4**  
**The Stoning of Stephen**  
**Acts 6-7**

**Voiceover** (VFX: short video intro)

**Scripture...the finest frontier. These are the voyages of Skylab Omega. Its five month mission to spread the Gospel to the galaxy, to share God's love with civilization, to boldly go where one Savior has gone before! Come with us now as we blast through the Bible with Commander Cosmos: Space Ranger!**

**Prof. von Himmel** (enters) (Sominex is sleeping in Commander's chair.) **Hello, hello, hello kiddies. It is I, Professor von Himmel. I was looking for Dr. Helga Sominex. You haven't seen her, have you? Dr. Sominex?** (hears Sominex's snoring) **Do you hear something? She's sleeping in the Commander's chair! Dr. Sominex? Dr. Sominex? DOCTOR SOMINEX!!**

**Sominex** (awakes and jumps up)  
**Objects at rest remain at rest until acted on by an external force!**

**Prof. von Himmel**  
**You remain at rest all the time.**

**Sominex**  
**That's science!**

**Prof. von Himmel**  
**Why are you in the Commander's chair?**

**Sominex**  
**Since the Commander hurt his leg I thought I would try and help him out by steering the ship. I've been up all night trying to learn how this chair works.**

**Prof. von Himmel**  
**You were up all night?**

**Sominex**  
**Well, most of the night...part of the night anyway, trying to learn what all these levers do. Like this one.** (she pulls lever) (SFX: Screech) (Both actors fall.)

**Prof. von Himmel**  
**I think those are the brakes. Helga, why are you trying to drive?**

**Sominex**  
**I was worried that the Commander wouldn't be able to get out of bed.**

**Prof. von Himmel**  
**Actually, he's been getting around quite well and he's in great spirits!**

**Sominex**  
**I noticed! If I hurt my leg, I'd probably be crying and limping and aching... (snores)**

**Prof. von Himmel**  
**And sleeping! Dr. Sominex? DOCTOR SOMINEX!!**

**Sominex**  
**The boiling point of water is 100 degrees Celsius!**

**Prof. von Himmel**  
**Dr. Helga, you don't have to learn how to drive. The Commander will be just fine.**

**Sominex**  
**He's so brave. How does he do it?**

**Prof. von Himmel**  
**Well, it's not easy being brave, but the Holy Spirit gives us boldness, like He did for Stephen.**

**Sominex**  
**Who's Stephen?**

**Prof. von Himmel**  
**You don't know the story of Stephen? You need to hear that one!**

**Sominex**

**Okay, I'll get the Bible out, right now!** (Opens window, SFX: "Hallelujah Chorus," VFX: Beam of light shines from box)

**Prof. von Himmel**

**Dr. Sominex? DOCTOR SOMINEX!!**

**Sominex**

**What?**

**Prof. von Himmel**

**Hand me the Bible. Now, Stephen was the first martyr of the church.**

**Sominex**

**What's a martyr?**

**Prof. von Himmel**

**A martyr is a person who is willing to sacrifice everything, even their life, to stand up for what they believe.**

**Sominex**

**Wow! I wish I could have met Stephen. He sounds so bold!**

**Prof. von Himmel**

**He was! The Bible says he was full of faith and the Holy Spirit and that he did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people!**

**Sominex**

**Everyone must have loved that guy!**

**Prof. von Himmel**

**Not the religious leaders from the synagogue.**

**Sominex**

**Let me guess. They didn't like the competition?**

**Prof. von Himmel**

**Something like that. They argued with Stephen, but he was too wise for them.**

**Sominex**

**Because he was filled with the Holy Spirit!**

**Prof. von Himmel**

**Yes! Then they took him to court!**

**Sominex**

**Took him to court for what?**

**Prof. von Himmel**

**Blasphemy.**

**Sominex**

**What is blasphemy?**

**Prof. von Himmel**

**Blasphemy is when you say or do something evil against God.**

**Sominex**

**Stephen would never do that!**

**Prof. von Himmel**

**I know that and you know that but the religious leaders just wanted to get rid of him.**

**Sominex**

**Did Stephen defend himself?**

**Prof. von Himmel**

**Better than that, he boldly defended Jesus. He explained all of God's plan beginning with Abraham and then Moses all the way through until it was completed by God's Son Jesus.**

**Sominex**

**Did that make the leaders smile?**

**Prof. von Himmel**

**Well, it made them grind their teeth but I wouldn't exactly call it a smile. Especially when Stephen reminded them that they were the ones who plotted to have Jesus killed!**

**Sominex**

**Uh-oh, Stephen's in trouble now! He must have been filled with fear.**

**Prof. von Himmel**

Actually, Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked up to heaven and said, "Look, I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

**Sominex**

I get it! It's like God was showing Stephen that what he believed was true.

**Prof von Himmel**

Stephen always had his mind on God. Even when they dragged him out of the city and threw stones at him!

**Sominex**

They threw stones at him? Where does it say that?!

**Prof. von Himmel**

Read it for yourself in the Virtual Bible.  
(SFX: Virtual Bible Theme, VFX: Scripture Slide)

**Sominex** (reads)

*"While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep."* Hey, Stephen prayed for his enemies and then he fell asleep just like me!

**Prof. von Himmel**

Oh no, Dr. Sominex. When the Bible says, "he fell asleep," it means he died.

**Sominex** (crying)

Oh, that's so sad! Poor Stephen. He didn't deserve that ... (snores)

**Prof. von Himmel**

Dr. Sominex? DOCTOR SOMINEX!!

**Sominex**

Sorry, crying makes me sleepy.

**Prof. von Himmel**

Everything makes you sleepy. The good news is Stephen went to be with Jesus. Stephen's life showed us what it means to be faithful.

**Sominex**

You mean by serving others, speaking boldly about Jesus and praying for his enemies?

**Prof. Von Himmel**

Exactly. And then after he died, all of the believers were scattered and they boldly spread the Word of God to other places.

**Sominex**

So...even when others do things to hurt us the Holy Spirit can still work through us?

**Prof. von Himmel**

Yes! No matter what is happening to us, the Bible promises that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. That will always be true. After all, you know what Commander Cosmos says...

**Both**

Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever! (SFX: Outro music, VFX: Fallback slide)

(Exit)