



Stephen Serves Others

Lesson Aim: To know we can serve others
by feeding the hungry.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Gives Us Power

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 6:1-8

What He Has Done: God helped Stephen serve others by feeding the hungry.

THE WAY

"'Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty." Zechariah 4:6b

Unit 1: The Promise of the Spirit			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
1	The Promise of the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:4-11	Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come.	To know Jesus promised a special helper.
2	Pentecost: The Holy Spirit Comes, Acts 2:1-4	Jesus kept His promise and sent the Holy Spirit.	To know God keeps His promises.
3	Peter and the Lame Man, Acts 3:1-10	God healed the man who could not walk.	To praise God for healing us.
4	Stephen Serves Others, Acts 6:1-8	God helped Stephen serve others by feeding the hungry.	To know we can serve others by feeding the hungry.
5	Philip and the Ethiopian, Acts 8:27-31, 34-35	God led Philip to teach the man from Africa about Jesus.	To know we can tell Bible stories to others.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Revelation 6:9-11. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for filling Stephen with Your Spirit. Fill the children with Your Holy Spirit in that same way so they might serve others and defend the faith. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Helping Children Feel at Ease. Think back to a time when you felt especially welcomed as a child or an adult. What made you feel welcome? How can you use that idea to make the children in your classroom feel welcome? Here are a few more ideas.

- Come early so you are prepared for the lesson before children arrive.
- Smile!
- Welcome each child by name as they enter the room.
- Learn each child's name quickly and use it whenever addressing him or her.
- Help the children learn each other's names.
- Let children help.

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of food
		Coloring Center: Stephen Serves Others	Coloring pages of Stephen giving food to the hungry, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: Love Through Serving	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Dramatic Play Center: We Can Serve Others	Dishes, cups, napkins, play food
		Activity Center: We Can Share	10 or more pieces of toy food or pictures of food, paper bags, optional: laminator or clear self-adhesive contact paper
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Not by Might" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Heal Me, O Lord" "Here Am I" "He Is Mighty to Save" "I Am with You" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 1, Lesson 4
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Acts 6:1-8	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 6:5a Visuals: Picture of the Bible story or food, bag or basket with canned or boxed food items
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Serving Apron	Large (11-inch x 17-inch) sturdy colored paper, additional sturdy colored paper, yarn or string, crayons or markers
		Game: Act It Out!	Food items from THE WELCOME Activity Center "We Can Share," paper bag
		Game: Pray and Serve	None
		Snack: Serve Others	Favorite snack
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 1, Lesson 4
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Acts 6:1-8	None
	Up to 10	Game: Bible Memory Verse Hop	None
	Up to 10	Game: Close with Him	Large blanket
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about serving others

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Spirit who gives us power

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of food. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of food help you remember Stephen gave food to the hungry.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: STEPHEN SERVES OTHERS

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Stephen giving food to the hungry, crayons

DO

Children color their picture as they talk about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

What do you see in our picture today? (Children respond.) Point to Stephen. **This man's name is Stephen. What is he sharing with the people?** (Food.) **Stephen was helping others by sharing food with them. What could you share with someone to help them?** (Children respond.)

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: LOVE THROUGH SERVING

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about loving others through serving. Encourage children to make food items with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

What is your favorite food? (Children respond.) **Where do you get food when you're hungry?** (Children respond.) **Who helps you get food?** (Mom, Dad, sibling, etc.) Names of people the children mentioned **serve you by giving you food when you are hungry. To serve means to help someone. Have you ever served someone in your family by bringing them a drink or something else?** (Children respond.) **When we serve someone we show them love. We're showing love to God, too because we're serving His people!**

THE WELCOME *continued...*

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER: WE CAN SERVE OTHERS

SUPPLIES

Dishes, cups, napkins, play food

DO

Children serve each other.

TALK ABOUT

God loves when we help each other. You can help each other here by taking turns making and serving a meal. Talk with the children about what they could make for another child who is in the center or in the classroom. Help them to take turns using what is in the center and making “meals” for each other.

ACTIVITY CENTER: WE CAN SHARE

SUPPLIES

10 or more pieces of toy food or pictures of food, paper bags, optional: laminator or clear self-adhesive contact paper (The food is also used in THE WAY. If you are using pictures, you may want to laminate or cover the pictures with clear self-adhesive contact paper to help them last longer.)

DO

Lay the pictures of food on the table. Give each child a paper bag. Children take turns putting food in each other’s bag.

TALK ABOUT

Today, we will hear a story about a friend of Jesus’ named Stephen. Sometimes people don’t have enough money to buy the food they need. Stephen knew Jesus would want him to share with those who were hungry. We can share with each other. Let’s take turns putting food in each other’s bags.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It’s time for Praise Time. Let’s sing a “Clean Up Song” as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

**“Not by might,
nor by power,
but by My Spirit,”**

(might) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.

(power) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.

(Spirit) On each hand, touch the tip of the pointer finger to the tip of the thumb. Hands begin at center of the chest, then move apart in a back and forth wavy motion.

says the Lord Almighty.”

(Lord) Make “L” shape with right index finger and thumb. Move “L” from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

Zechariah 4:6b

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The Spirit who gives us power

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



I am so happy you all came to worship with me today. Before we sing, let's pray and talk to God. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for bringing us together today to worship You and to learn about You. Amen.**



God wants us to serve others as Stephen did. When we serve others, we hope they will see God's love and praise Him. Let's praise Him now! Sing: "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God."

Today's Bible story is about a man named Stephen who loved Jesus very much. Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit and did many good things to serve others. Serving others shows God that we love Him. We can serve others by giving our offering right now! Sing: "Here Am I" while collecting the offering.



Let's visit with Delbert and Lello to see if they know the story of how Stephen served others. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 1, Lesson 4.



God gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us with all the things He wants us to do. That sounds like our Bible Verse. Let's say it together. Practice a few times together.

**"Not by might,
nor by power,
but by My Spirit,"**

says the Lord Almighty."

Zechariah 4:6b

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Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Let's sing our Bible Memory Verse Song. Sing Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Not by Might."



Stephen feeds the hungry

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 6:5a, picture of the Bible story or food, bag or basket with canned or boxed food items

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

When you are hungry, where do you get food? (Children respond.) **What would you do if there was no food to eat?** (Children respond.) **Sometimes families don't have enough money to buy food. Many churches and other groups help by giving food to people who need it.**

We can help, too! You and I can share the food we have. Show the children the food in the bag. You may choose to have them identify some of the items. **Giving people food when they are hungry is one way we can help people. God loves when we care for others. Let's listen to a story about how Jesus' friends served others.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 6:5a.



WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 6:1-8

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story or food from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **God sent the Holy Spirit;**
- **More and more people believed.**
- **The disciples were so busy teaching,**
- **That the hungry they could not feed.**

- **The disciples prayed for Stephen;**
- **They sent him on his way.**
- **He went to feed the hungry,**
- **Serving others every day.**

Who did Jesus' friends choose to serve food to the hungry? (Stephen.) **When we serve others, who are we showing love to?** (God, the people we serve.)



We can feed the hungry

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: SERVING APRON

Purpose: To remind the children they can serve others like Stephen did.

Supplies: Large (11-inch x 17-inch) sturdy colored paper, additional sturdy colored paper, yarn or string, crayons or markers

Prepare Apron: Cut the large sturdy paper into the shape of an apron (see ResourceWell.org for a template). Punch two holes at the top. String a piece of yarn long enough to tie around a child's neck through the two holes. From sturdy colored paper, cut a 4-inch x 6-inch rectangle and attach it to the front for an apron pocket. On the front of the pocket, print:

Stephen feeds the hungry.

Acts 6:1-8

Prepare Food Shapes: Cut three food shapes from sturdy colored paper. Shapes should be small enough to fit in the apron pocket.

Optional: Punch two more holes at the sides of the apron to tie yarn around the child's waist. Teacher may choose to make aprons from cloth instead of paper and sew or hot glue a pocket to the apron front.

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5.

Directions:

1. Color the apron.
2. Color the food shapes.
3. Put the food shapes in the apron pocket.
4. Help the children tie on their aprons.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who did Stephen serve?** (People who were hungry.)
- **Stephen gave food to others. He did not want them to be hungry.**
- **God loves when we help others. Our serving aprons remind us we can help people by giving food to those who need it. You can serve others, just as Stephen did!**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: ACT IT OUT!

Purpose: Children will act out the story of Stephen serving others.

Supplies: Food items from THE WELCOME Activity Center "We Can Share," paper bag

Prepare: Place enough food items in the bag for half of the children to each have one.

Stephen served others who were hungry. Let's act out our story.

Directions:

1. Divide the children into two groups, Jesus' friends and the people.
2. Have the people sit in the play area. Have Jesus' friends stand near them.
3. **Jesus' friends taught the people about Him day and night.** Lead Jesus' friends in saying to the people, "Jesus loves you."
4. **More and more people came and believed.** The people fold their hands in prayer.
5. **When people came to Jesus' friends for food, His friends knew they needed to help.** The people rub their bellies. Jesus' friends nod their heads.
6. **They chose Stephen to lead, a man who loved God very much.** Lead Jesus' friends in choosing one of them to be Stephen.
7. **Stephen served by feeding the hungry every day.** Give Stephen the bag of food. Stephen gives each of the people one of the food items. You may want to have one of Jesus' friends help by holding the bag.
8. **Serving others shows God we love Him. We hope those we serve will see God's love and praise Him, too!** Jesus' friends and the people clap and say, "Praise God!"
9. If you have time, play again allowing the children to change roles.

GAME: PRAY AND SERVE

Purpose: Teacher will remember God will help us serve each other.

Supplies: None

Jesus' followers chose Stephen to feed the hungry people. They prayed for God to help him serve others. To serve means to help. In this game, we will ask God to help each of you serve others.

Directions:

1. Face your helper or another child. Grasp hands and hold arms up like a bridge.
2. Children walk in a circle, passing under the bridge.
3. Together, sing or chant the following rhyme to the tune of "London Bridge" (or your own tune):
We ask God to help you, help you, help you.
We ask God to help you—to serve others!
4. On the last word of the rhyme, drop your arms to surround the child passing under the bridge at that moment.
5. Ask that child, "What can God help you do?"
6. Child answers, "Serve others."
7. Game continues until each child has a turn answering the question.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: SERVE OTHERS

Purpose: Children will serve the snack to each other to practice serving others.

Snack Suggestion: Favorite snack

Let's serve each other like Stephen served the people. Allow children to help serve the snack. A few children might pass out the napkins. Others might place a snack on each napkin or walk with the teacher or helper who is pouring drinks.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who did Stephen help?** (People who were hungry.)
 - **How can you help others at home?** (For example: help sweep the floor, take a drink to a parent or brother or sister, take care of the family pet, help fold laundry, etc.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

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Zechariah 4:6b

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: ACTS 6:1-8

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **God sent the Holy Spirit;** (Point up to heaven.)
- **More and more people believed.** (Hold up and wiggle all ten fingers.)
- **The disciples were so busy teaching,** (Point index finger, as if teaching.)
- **That the hungry they could not feed.** (Shake head no and shrug shoulders.)

- **The disciples prayed for Stephen;** (Fold hands, as if praying.)
- **They sent him on his way.** (Point to exit.)
- **He went to feed the hungry,** (Place hands on belly.)
- **Serving others every day.** (Reach arms outward.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.” Zechariah 4:6b

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE HOP

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: None

After He promised to send the Holy Spirit, Jesus was taken up through the clouds. Let’s pretend we are above the clouds and say each Bible Memory Verse word as we hop from cloud to cloud.

Directions:

1. Children line up behind you.
2. As you say each word from the Bible Memory Verse, hop around the room.
3. If you have time, use other motions while saying the verse such as taking big steps, taking baby steps, clapping, or skipping.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: CLOSE WITH HIM

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the promise in Joel 2:28a.

Supplies: Large blanket

Jesus promised to send a special helper, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God. Let's imagine what that might be like by imagining this blanket is the Holy Spirit.

Directions:

1. Have the children stand close together and wrap the blanket around them.
2. **God wants you to know that He is as close to you as this blanket. That's why He gives you His Spirit—so you can be close with Him.**
3. **The Holy Spirit will help us in everything we say and do. That's why our Bible Memory Verse says, "'Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty." Can we say it together?** Practice the Bible Memory Verse with the children. You may choose to drop the blanket and have them say the Bible Memory Verse with the motions.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about serving others.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 1, Lesson 4: Stephen Serves Others

PONDER! Stephen helped others by feeding the hungry (Acts 6:1-8). Who is happy when we help others? (God, the people we help.)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for helping Stephen serve others. Please help us serve and help others, too. Amen."

PLAY! We can serve others like Stephen did. As a family, collect canned or boxed goods to give to a food pantry or make a meal or dessert for someone you know.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

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Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.