



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

Whisper Verse: "Serve others."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

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

"I will pour out My Spirit on all people." Joel 2:28a

Unit 1: The Promise of the Spirit			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
1	The Promise of the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:3-11	Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come.	To know that sometimes we must wait for God's gifts.
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."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of food
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Serve others."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Not by Might" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Heal Me, O Lord" "I Am with You" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" Additional Hymn Suggestions "Hallelu, Hallelu" "How Great Is Our God" "I've Got the Joy"
		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 Visual: Can of soup or other nonperishable food item
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Serving Apron	Large (11-inch x 17-inch) sturdy colored paper, sturdy colored paper, yarn or string, crayons or markers, optional: magazines (to cut pictures of food or pre-cut food shapes), scissors, cloth, hot glue
		Game: Pray and Serve	None
		Game: Serving Those in Need	Nonperishable food, boxes
		Snack: Serve Others	Favorite snack
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 1, Lesson 4 Color This Story: "Stephen Feeds the Hungry"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Acts 6:1-8	None
	Up to 10	Game: Cloud Hop	Sturdy white paper or paper plates
	Up to 10	Game: God's Blanket for Us	Large blanket
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about serving others

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Serve others

THE 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 served food to the hungry. Today's Whisper Verse is "Serve others." To serve means to help.** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Serve others."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| "Serve" | Both hands are placed in front of the body, palms facing up. They are alternately moved closer to and further from the body. |
| "others." | The right hand creates the letter "A" hand shape by making a closed fist with the thumb resting on the outside of the index finger. Beginning with the thumb pointing to the left, rotate the arm and wrist outward so the thumb ends pointing to the right. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Serve others," 1 Peter 4:10. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The Spirit who gives us power

THE WORSHIP

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.

It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit who gives us power. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to help others and give them what they need. When we help others, we are serving them. That's our Whisper Verse for today: “Serve others.” Let's try it together now. Review Whisper Verse together: “Serve others.” Include sign language.



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. He did these good deeds not by his own might, nor his own power, but by the power of the Holy Spirit. Sing: “Not By Might.”

One way Stephen served others was by giving them food. God wants us to serve others. Serving others shows God that we love Him. We can serve others by giving our offering right now! Sing: “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” while collecting the offering.



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



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: “Let Everything That Has Breath.”



Stephen feeds the hungry

THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned that in the name of Jesus, Peter healed the man who could not walk. Today, we will see how God helped Stephen feed the hungry. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 6:5a.

WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 6:1-8

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a can of soup or other nonperishable food item. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- **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 the disciples choose to serve food to the hungry? (Stephen.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Acts 6:5a from the teacher's Bible.

What job did the leaders want Stephen to do? (Serve others.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Serve others." Include sign language or hand motions.



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, sturdy colored paper, yarn or string, crayons or markers, optional: magazines (to cut pictures of food or pre-cut food shapes), scissors, cloth, hot glue

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 colored sturdy paper, cut a 4-inch x 6-inch rectangle and attach it to the front for an apron pocket. On 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. Make aprons from cloth instead of paper. Teacher may hot glue a pocket to the apron front. Bring in magazines for children to cut or tear out pictures of food for their serving apron.

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.**
- **The Bible says, "serve others." Stephen obeyed. That's today's Whisper Verse. Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- **Take out one piece of food from your apron and give it to someone else!** Help children trade food shapes with each other. **You can serve others, just as Stephen did!**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: PRAY AND SERVE

Purpose: Teacher will pray for each child and then send them to serve each other.

Supplies: None

Jesus' followers chose Stephen to feed the hungry people. They prayed for God to help him serve others. 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 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, **How can you serve others?**
6. Child answers and game continues until each child has a turn answering the question.

GAME: SERVING THOSE IN NEED

Purpose: Children will organize food to donate to a food bank or soup kitchen.

Supplies: Nonperishable food, boxes

Prepare: Before class, contact parents to send a nonperishable food donation to class with their child, or coordinate this lesson with a church or community food drive. If neither option is possible, ask children to pretend blocks and/or food-shaped toys are real food to be donated.

Stephen served others who were hungry. We can serve others, too! Let's sort food to give to people who are hungry.

Directions:

1. Pile the donated food in the center of the play area.
2. Divide children into teams based on the types of food in the pile. (For example: Can Collectors, Box Builders, Rice Runners, Pasta Pickers, Bag Grabbers, Snack Snappers, etc.)
3. Provide a box for each team to collect their food.
4. Talk with the children about where the food will go and who it will help as they sort and collect the food into the team boxes.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: SERVE OTHERS

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

Snack Suggestion: Cookies

You can serve others. Let's serve each other right now! Give each child part of the snack to serve. For example, let some children pass out the napkins. Then other children will place a cookie on each napkin.

Directions:

1. Serve drink. Children serve snack to one another.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other 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. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who did Stephen serve?** (People who were hungry.)
 - **That's like our Whisper Verse! Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate Whisper Verse motions: "Serve others."
 - **How can you serve others at home?** (For example: help set the table, take a drink to a parent or brother or sister, take care of the family pet, clean up, etc.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Serving Apron" craft. Tell someone that Stephen served others by feeding the hungry.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how you can serve others, too.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Stephen Feeds the Hungry" Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Not by Might," as children color.



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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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.** (Whisper Verse sign language.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

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

"I will pour out My Spirit on all people." Joel 2:28a

GAME: CLOUD HOP

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

Supplies: Sturdy white paper or paper plates

Prepare: Cut 23 cloud shapes from white paper or white paper plates.

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

Directions:

1. Lay the clouds on the floor in a line or in a circle around the play area.
2. As you say each word from the Bible Memory Verse, children repeat after you and hop from one cloud to the next.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: GOD'S BLANKET FOR US

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

Supplies: Large blanket

Directions:

1. In the center of the room, lay the blanket on the floor.
2. Children stand around the edges of the blanket.
3. **God says, "I will pour out My Spirit on all people." The Holy Spirit is God. To pour out His Spirit is a way of saying God is with us in a powerful way. Let's imagine what that might be like by imagining this blanket is the Holy Spirit.**
4. Children pick up the blanket and raise it over their heads as they imagine God pouring His Spirit out on all of them.
5. **Let's wrap God's Spirit around us.**
6. Children duck under the blanket and pull it tight around them.
7. **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!**



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! Read Acts 6:1-8 with your family. Talk about how Jesus' followers were teaching about God. Some people were hungry; they had no food. The followers could not teach others and feed the hungry at the same time. Who did they choose to serve food to the hungry people?

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

PLAY! Serve others! Think of ways you can serve others in your home. Maybe you can help set the table with food for a meal. Now, think of ways your family can serve others outside of your home. Maybe you can donate canned food to the hungry, or take a special meal to someone who is sick or cannot leave their home. Then, you will be serving like Stephen did!

Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse:

"'Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty." Zechariah 4:6b
"I will pour out My Spirit on all people." Joel 2:28a