



# The Stoning of Stephen

**Lesson Aim:** To trust that the Holy Spirit will help us be faithful.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The Spirit Who Gives Us Power

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Acts 6:5a, 8, 15; 7:54-60

**What He Has Done:** God strengthened Stephen to defend and die for the faith.

**Key Verse:** Acts 7:59-60

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** Daniel 7:13-14

## 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 to send the Holy Spirit.	To know the Holy Spirit's power helps us to be witnesses.
2	Pentecost: The Holy Spirit Comes, Acts 2:1-8, 32-33, 38-39	Jesus kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit.	To know that all who believe in Jesus receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
3	Peter and the Lame Man, Acts 3:1-10, 16	Jesus healed the man who could not walk when Peter called on His name.	To call on the name of Jesus for healing.
4	The Stoning of Stephen, Acts 6:5a, 8, 15; 7:54-60	God strengthened Stephen to defend and die for the faith.	To trust that the Holy Spirit will help us be faithful.
5	Philip and the Ethiopian, Acts 8:26-31, 34-35	God led Philip to teach the Ethiopian about Jesus.	To know the Holy Spirit helps us understand God's Word so we can tell 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 Spirit in the same way so they might serve others and defend their faith no matter what. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	None
		<b>Game: Match Up</b>	12 index cards or pieces of paper, marker
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	<b>Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Not by Might" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "At the Name of Jesus" "For God So Loved the World" "I Am the Way" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Father, I Adore You" "Spirit of the Living God"
		<b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b> Revelation 22:3-5	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 4 Commander Cosmos script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Read the Word:</b> Acts 6:5a, 8, 15; 7:54-60	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Discuss the Word</b>	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		<b>Christ Connection:</b> Daniel 7:13-14	
		<b>Golden Bowl</b>	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	<b>Final Five Minutes</b>	Treasure Treat—Stephen's stone (small smooth stone), Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "Not by Might"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Snack: Serve Others</b>	Favorite snack
	Up to 10	<b>Game: Pray for God's Power</b>	Gray paper, pens or pencils, optional: basket
	Up to 10	<b>Craft: "Be Faithful!" Shoe Charm</b>	Cardboard or craft foam, fine point markers, scissors, pencils, tacky glue, paper clips, crayons or markers, optional: hot glue gun, hot glue sticks
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Memory Verse Hand Motions	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Around the World	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster, 25 pictures of the earth, labels or slips of paper
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Timeline Review</b>	Date with story title or name printed on card

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

## THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

**Meet & Greet Question: What brave thing have you seen someone do?**

### **GAME: MATCH UP**

**Purpose:** To introduce elements of the story of Stephen.

**Supplies:** 12 index cards or pieces of paper, marker

**Prepare:** Print 2 sets of the following words in large print (1 word on each card): stones, faith, heaven, power, Spirit, and Stephen.

**Key words from today's story are printed on these cards. Try to remember the word on each card so you can find the matching pairs.**

**Directions:**

1. Place each card face down on the floor (or large table) in random order.
2. First child turns over two cards.
3. If no match is made, return both cards to a face down position. If a match is made, leave both cards face up.
4. Children take turns until all the matches have been found and the cards are all face up.

**Today, we will learn about the story of Stephen where stones, faith, heaven, power, Stephen, and the Holy Spirit all play an important role.**



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 music as children move to the designated area.



**We worship the Holy Spirit who gives us power. In today's Bible story, we will learn about a man named Stephen who was full of faith and filled with the Holy Spirit. Sing: "Father, I Adore You" while collecting the offering.**

**Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Stephen did amazing things including boldly telling the truth about Jesus and praying for the very people who were trying to hurt him. Just as He did with Stephen, the Holy Spirit can help us do those same things. Sing Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Not by Might." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on the power of the Holy Spirit.**



**Before Stephen died, he looked up and saw heaven open. There he saw Jesus standing with God the Father. Let's listen to this scripture to learn more about who and what we will see one day in heaven. Read Revelation 22:3-5.**



**Perform Commander Cosmos script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 1, Lesson 4.**



## The stoning of Stephen

# THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."**

**Last time, we learned Peter called on the name of Jesus to heal the man who could not walk. What did the man do after he was healed?** (He walked, jumped, and praised God.) **Now, we will find out what happened when a man named Stephen boldly spoke about Jesus to a crowd of angry men.** If a Bible Timeline is available, point to The Stoning of Stephen. For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

**Stephen was chosen by the disciples to make sure everyone, including the poor widows, had enough food each day. In today's story, we will see how Stephen boldly spoke about Jesus to the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was a group of Jewish leaders in Jerusalem.** If a map is available, point out Jerusalem, Israel. **Stephen didn't worry about what the leaders would say or do to him. Jesus was happy with Stephen for putting Him first, no matter what.**



**If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Acts 6:5a, 8, 15; 7:54-60.

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

**First, let's read how the Bible describes Stephen.** Read Acts 6:5a, 8.

**Stephen spoke boldly about Jesus which made some men angry. They seized him and took him to the Sanhedrin.** Read Acts 6:15.

**Stephen spoke boldly to the Sanhedrin about Jesus. He explained that the part of God's plan which began with Abraham and then Moses, was completed by God's Son, Jesus. The members of the Sanhedrin were very angry when Stephen told them they had disobeyed God by refusing to believe in Jesus. Let's see what happened next.** Read Acts 7:54-60.



Being faithful

## THE WAY

The Bible says Stephen was a man who was full of faith and full of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helped Stephen be faithful to God. One who is faithful to God completely trusts Him, obeys Him, and is loyal to Him. The Holy Spirit can help you be faithful. Stephen was being faithful when he boldly spoke the truth about Jesus even though he knew he could be jailed or harmed. Stephen knew Jesus was the most important person in his life. He knew Jesus would never leave him, no matter what. After the men threw stones at Stephen, he fell into a deep sleep. Then, he died and went to heaven to be with Jesus forever. Stephen stayed faithful to Jesus, even when he knew it would cost him his life.

The angry men did not want Stephen to talk about Jesus. Just as the Holy Spirit helped Stephen boldly speak the truth about Jesus, the Holy Spirit can help you, too. Have you ever boldly told others about Jesus? (Children respond.)

What did God show Stephen when he looked up to heaven as the crowd gnashed (ground) their teeth at him? (The Son of Man standing next to God.) The Son of Man is another name for Jesus. Stephen knew Jesus and God the Father were standing in heaven watching over him. Do you think seeing Jesus with God the Father in heaven helped Stephen to not be afraid of the angry men? (Yes.) When have you been afraid? (Children respond.) How can it help you to know Jesus and God the Father are watching over you from heaven? (Children respond.)

Stephen was also being faithful when he prayed for his enemies. He was faithfully obeying Jesus' teachings on forgiving and loving our enemies. We are being faithful when we obey God's Word, the Bible. We are being faithful when we speak boldly about Jesus and help others follow Him. We are being faithful when we put God first in our lives. What are some ways God has helped you be faithful to Him? (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

When the men were throwing stones at Stephen, he looked up and saw Jesus standing next to God the Father in heaven. Check out what Daniel saw over 600 years earlier.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Daniel 7:13-14. Let's find this scripture. Read Daniel 7:13-14.

How do you think it will feel to one day see Jesus coming through the clouds? (Children respond.) How does this description of the Son of Man (Jesus) give you courage to be faithful? (Children respond.)

# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## GOLDEN BOWL

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.**

**Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_. Read names in Golden Bowl.**

**Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## FINAL FIVE MINUTES

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is a Stephen's Stone. Take a pencil or marker and draw a cross on the stone. Keep your Stephen's Stone in a special place at home to remind you that God can help you be faithful. The cross reminds you to speak boldly about Jesus. The stone reminds you to pray for your enemies as Jesus and Stephen both did.

**DAILY WAY CHALLENGE:** Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 4 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

**Teacher Tip:** Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Stephen looking up to heaven as the angry men threw stones.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Not by Might," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **SNACK: SERVE OTHERS**

**Purpose:** Children will eat a snack while personally connecting with Stephen's ministry.

**Snack Suggestion:** Favorite snack

**The disciples chose Stephen to serve food to the poor. Who filled Stephen with power so he could serve the hungry and perform miracles? (The Holy Spirit.) The Holy Spirit also made Stephen brave to boldly speak about Jesus and strong to serve the hungry. Let's serve each other, just like Stephen served those who were hungry.**

**Directions:**

1. Children serve each other by setting the table, serving the snack, pouring or serving drinks, etc.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask each child to answer this question: **"How can you serve others in your town?"**

### **GAME: PRAY FOR GOD'S POWER**

**Purpose:** Children will pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen them when they defend their faith.

**Supplies:** Gray paper, pens or pencils, optional: basket

**Prepare:** Cut a paper rock shape for each child.

**Why did the leaders throw stones at Stephen?** (They were angry because they didn't want to hear Stephen speak the truth about the wrong things they had done to Jesus.) **The Holy Spirit helped Stephen speak boldly about Jesus. Some people still get angry when we talk about Jesus. They do not want to hear the truth. What are some things they may do?** (Tease or say mean things.) **Let's pray and ask God's Holy Spirit to help us to boldly speak the truth about Jesus as Stephen did.**

**Teacher's Note:** If you live in a region where Christians are persecuted, discuss making wise choices about when to speak boldly about Jesus.

**Directions:**

1. Give one paper rock shape and a pen or pencil to each child.
2. **What is one worry you have about sharing the truth about Jesus with others? Write or draw a picture about that on your rock.**
3. One at a time, children crumple up their rock and throw it into the center of the play area or basket while saying, **"The Holy Spirit will make me bold."**
4. When all the rocks are in the center, have the children repeat the following prayer after you, pausing to allow them to repeat the words:  
**"Dear Jesus, we want to tell others about You.  
Please fill us with the Holy Spirit so we can be bold like Stephen. Amen."**
5. **Now trust the Holy Spirit to help you do that!**



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: "BE FAITHFUL!" SHOE CHARM**

**Purpose:** Children create a shoe charm to help them remember that God's Holy Spirit will give them the strength to "stand tall" and defend their faith in Jesus.

**Supplies:** Cardboard or craft foam, fine point markers, scissors, pencils, tacky glue, paper clips, crayons or markers, optional: hot glue gun, hot glue sticks

**Prepare:** Print: **"Be Faithful!"** where the children can see to copy it.

**Optional:** You may choose to pre-cut the rock shapes and/or use a hot glue gun to attach the paperclip to the back of the rock shape.

**The Holy Spirit filled Stephen with power so he could serve the hungry, perform miracles, and boldly speak about Jesus. Stephen defended His faith in Jesus, even when people were hurting him. Let's make shoe charms to help us remember that as we walk through our life, God gives us the Holy Spirit so we can be brave and be faithful to Jesus, no matter what!**

### **Directions:**

1. Cut a rock shape approximately 1 ½-inches in diameter from cardboard or craft foam.
2. Copy the words "Be Faithful!" on your rock using the fine point marker. (Younger children may need assistance in writing letters small enough to fit on the rock shape.)
3. Decorate the rock with crayons or markers.
4. Slightly separate the two parts of the paperclip and glue the larger side of the paperclip to the back of the rock.
5. When the glue is dry, attach the small part of the paperclip to your shoe. Your shoe charm can help you remember to be faithful to Jesus as you walk through your life with Him.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## 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: MEMORY VERSE HAND MOTIONS

**Purpose:** Children learn the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster

This year, we are going to learn about God’s promises. Our new Bible Memory Verse tell us one of God’s promises. God promises to pour out His Spirit on all people. We can’t do the great things God wants us to do by just using our own might and power. We need God’s help, so He promised to send us a special helper—His Holy Spirit. Let’s learn some motions to help us remember Zechariah 4:6b and Joel 2:28a.

#### **Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. As you say the Bible Memory Verse together, demonstrate the corresponding actions:
  - **Not by might** (Flex arm muscles up.)
  - **Nor by power** (Flex arm muscles down.)
  - **But by My Spirit** (Point to heaven.)
  - **Says the Lord Almighty** (Sign for the word “Lord”: Make an “L” shape with thumb and index finger, cross “L” shape from shoulder to hip as royal sash.)
  - **I will pour out** (Pretend to hold up a jug and pour.)
  - **My Spirit** (Point to heaven.)
  - **On all people** (Spread arms wide.)
3. Assign each child (or a group of children) one phrase and action.
4. Seat children in a circle.
5. In order, each child (or group) quickly stands, says and does their motion, and then sits.
6. Repeat step 5 and challenge children to be faster each time.

**Option:** Divide the children into two teams and make it a race.

### GAME: AROUND THE WORLD

**Purpose:** Children learn the meaning of the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster, labels or slips of paper, 25 pictures of the earth (Pictures can be computer printouts, magazine cutouts, or your own sketches. They do not need to be identical.)

**Prepare:** Display Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster. Write one word or verse reference of the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse on a label or slip of paper. Attach each label to an earth picture. Place the earth pictures word side up and in a large circle approximately 1-foot apart from each other.

#### **Directions:**

1. Each child takes a turn stepping on the pictures in order, saying each word as he or she steps.
2. Each time the children repeat the game, turn over some of the pictures so children must remember the missing words when they step on those pictures.
3. The goal is for the children to continue playing until all the pictures are upside down and they are able to remember all the words of the Bible Memory Verse without looking at the poster.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part One studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Acts through Revelation. Specific dates and a confirmed chronological order of all events covered in Lessons 1-21 are not available. Events will be ordered as they appear in the Bible. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

**The Holy Spirit Comes (Circa 33 A.D.)** God kept His promise and sent the Holy Spirit to the apostles waiting in Jerusalem. People all over the world were already gathered there for a Jewish festival called Pentecost. **Why do you think the Holy Spirit came while the city was filled with people visiting from other lands?** (So those people could go and tell the people in their part of the world what they had seen and heard.)

**Peter and the Lame Man (Circa 33 A.D.)** A man who could not walk begged Peter and John for money; Peter gave the man something better. **Whose name did Peter call on to heal the man?** (Jesus.) **What did the man do after he was healed?** (He walked, jumped, and praised God.) **Why do believers today pray in Jesus' name?** (Jesus is the one who has the power to answer prayer.)

**The Stoning of Stephen (Circa 33 A.D.)** Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He fed the hungry and did many miracles. He spoke boldly about Jesus. **Some people did not want to hear the truth about Jesus, so they threw stones at Stephen. What did he see when he looked up to the sky?** (Jesus and God the Father standing in heaven.) **What were Stephen's last words about the men who were hurting him?** (He said, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them.")

How to create a Bible Timeline from Acts through Revelation:

1. Download and print the Bible Timeline for Prophets & Promises (available at [www.resourcewell.org](http://www.resourcewell.org)).
2. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
3. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
4. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
5. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

**Acts – Revelation:** Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.) > Jesus Ascends (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Holy Spirit Comes (Circa 33 A.D.) > Peter and the Lame Man (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Stoning of Stephen (Circa 33 A.D.) > Philip and the Ethiopian (Circa 33 A.D.) > God Changes Saul's Heart (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Saul Escapes from Damascus (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Peter and Tabitha (Circa 34-37 A.D.) > Peter Visits Cornelius (Circa 38 A.D.) > Peter Escapes from Prison (Circa 41-44 A.D.) > Barnabas and Paul (Circa 46-47 A.D.) > Paul Visits Macedonia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Lydia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Silas in Prison (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Priscilla and Aquila (Circa 49-54 A.D.) > Paul's Third Journey (Circa 52-57 A.D.) > Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and King Agrippa (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and the Shipwreck (Circa 60 A.D.) > Paul Imprisoned in Rome (Circa 62 A.D.)