



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation
Unit 1, Lesson 4

The Stoning of Stephen

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

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: What brave thing have you seen someone do?

GAME: Match Up

THE WORSHIP THE SPIRIT WHO GIVES US POWER

Read Worship Scripture: Revelation 22:3-5.

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform Commander Cosmos script or read storybook.

THE WORD THE STONING OF STEPHEN

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: Jesus healed the lame man when Peter called on His name.

If a Bible Timeline is available, point out The Stoning of Stephen. **Stephen was chosen to make sure everyone had enough food. We will see how he boldly spoke about Jesus to the Sanhedrin; a group of Jewish leaders in Jerusalem.** Point out Jerusalem. Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Acts 6:5a, 8, 15; 7:54-60. Find and Highlight Key Verse First: Acts 7:59-60. Pray. **Let's read about 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 about Jesus. He explained that God's plan, which began with Abraham and then Moses, was completed by God's Son, Jesus. The leaders were angry when Stephen said they had disobeyed God by refusing to believe in Jesus. Read Acts 7:54-60.

THE WAY BEING FAITHFUL

The Bible says Stephen was a man full of faith and full of the Holy Spirit. What do you think that means? Being full of faith, Stephen believed in Jesus as Lord. Being full of the Holy Spirit, Stephen was led by God in all he did; helping him become more like Jesus.

The Holy Spirit helped Stephen be faithful to God, completely trusting Him, obeying Him, and loyal to Him. How was Stephen faithful to God? (He spoke boldly about Jesus.) The Holy Spirit can help you do that, too. Have you ever boldly told others about Jesus?

What did God show Stephen when he looked up to heaven? (The Son of Man (Jesus) standing next to God.) How do you think seeing Jesus and God the Father in heaven may have encouraged Stephen?

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 was the first Christian martyr. Martyrs are believers who face death for speaking out about their faith in Jesus.

Jesus said, "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." To persecute is to mistreat someone because of who they are or what they believe. On the cross, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." What were Stephen's last words? ("Lord, do not hold this sin against them.") Let's take 7 seconds of silence to think of someone who hurt you on purpose. Ask God to help you pray for that person. After a moment of silent prayer, lead children in saying Stephen's prayer: "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." It is not always easy to love and pray for our enemies. You can trust the Holy Spirit to help you do that.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Stephen saw Jesus standing next to God the Father in heaven. Let's see what Daniel saw over 600 years earlier. Reveal Daniel 7:13-14. Find It First. Highlight. Read. **How do you think it will feel to one day see Jesus coming through the clouds? How does this description of the Son of Man (Jesus) give you courage to be faithful?**

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: Stephen's Stone
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- OFFERING OF ART: Stephen looking to heaven as the men threw stones
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Serve Others

GAME: Pray for God's Power

CRAFT: "Be Faithful!" Shoe Charm

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Memory Verse Hand Motions, Around the World

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW