

KIDS Home Lessons

LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF THIS TIME TOGETHER!

January 24th | Acts 6:8-7:60 | Stephen's Address

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- The Gospel Project Curriculum intentionally shares the whole story of Bible with kids on their developmental level over a 3 year cycle. Your child will be introduced to **gospel centrality** as their lessons connect all the pieces from individual stories in the Bible to show the **one big story of God's plan to redeem people through Jesus**. Our heart beat is to share the gospel of Jesus over and over again in order to anchor God's one big story into the hearts of kids.
- Gospel-centered parenting helps your child see that Jesus Christ is perfecter and the transformer of you and your child. Our aim is not to modify our children's behavior by teaching the Bible as a collection of moral stories and rules about how to behave. Rather when our children see that every story in the Bible points back to Jesus, they understand Jesus is God's plan from the beginning to rescue people from sin and death! The gospel changes everything, including us.
- A **catechism** is simply a method of learning the truths about God and his gospel by asking questions which prompt answers. We encourage you and your children to memorize the catechisms shared along with the accompanying **Scripture** to build a storehouse of knowledge that the Holy Spirit can use to transform us to look more like Jesus.
- **Repeat, repeat, repeat:** Throughout the lesson, repeat the **Big Picture Question** and the **Christ Connection** to remind the kids of what they've learned and why it's important. Make it fun to make it stick.
- **Make it stick:** We do activities and games, ask questions and review to help the Bible story stick. This helps kids know how to apply what they are learning. The goal of this time is to give them a chance to practice what they learned and give them an opportunity to share.

BEFORE I TEACH

1

Read the Bible Story to prepare yourself. After you read, **ask yourself:**

- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- What did I learn about God (or myself) that was hard to hear?
- Did God reveal anything new to me in the passage?

Read the Christ Connection and **Big Picture Question**. After you read, **ask yourself:** *Why does this matter for the kids?* Jot down your answer in a journal, and pray the Holy Spirit would give you insight to know what truths about God your child needs to hear today.

MEMORIZE

2

- **Catechism**
- **YOU ASK:** Have you a soul as well as a body?
- **THEY ANSWER:** Yes. I have a soul that can never die
- **Scripture Verse**
 - John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

STORY & WORSHIP

3

- **Bible Story** | Help kids see that the Bible is true and it's full of stories that help us know God and trust Jesus.
 - Watch the video lesson provided on the website!
 - Review the Big Picture Question and the Christ Connection after the story.
 - **Big Picture Question:** Why was Stephen not afraid to die? Stephen saw Jesus waiting for him in heaven.
 - **Christ Connection:** Stephen was killed because he was a Christian. Jesus told His followers that they would be persecuted—hated, hurt, or even killed—for loving Him. Jesus also said that those who suffer for Him would be blessed. (Matthew 5:11) We can face suffering in this life because Jesus suffered first. He died and then rose again, and He is waiting for us in heaven.
 - **Say** • How do we respond to this good news we just heard? **We worship God!**
 - Use the videos on the website to sing, dance and worship God together.
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TALK ABOUT THE STORY

4

- **PRE-K:**
 - Who was Stephen? (Stephen was a man who loved and followed Jesus.)
 - Why were the Jewish leaders mad at Stephen? (They were mad because Stephen told them that Jesus is the Messiah.)
 - What did Stephen do when the people brought him in front of the court? (Stephen told people Bible stories to show that God sent Jesus.)
 - What did the people do to Stephen? (They threw rocks at him until he died.)
 - Why did people hurt Stephen? They wanted Stephen to stop telling people about Jesus.
- **1ST-2ND GRADE:**
 - Name some of the Old Testament people about whom Stephen preached. (Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon; Acts 7:2-50)
 - Why did Stephen tell the Jewish leaders Old Testament stories? (to explain that Jesus is the Messiah, Acts 7:52)
 - Whom did Stephen see when he looked up to heaven? (Jesus, Acts 7:55)
 - What did Stephen say as he died? ("Lord, do not hold this sin against them," Acts 7:60)
 - Why was Stephen not afraid to die? Stephen saw Jesus waiting for him in heaven.
- **3RD-5TH GRADE:**
 - Who gave Stephen wisdom when he spoke? (the Holy Spirit, Acts 6:10)
 - Where did the Jews take Stephen? (to the Sanhedrin, or Jewish court; acts 6:12)
 - What part of the Bible did Stephen preach about? (the Old Testament, Acts 7:2-50)
 - What did Stephen accuse the Jewish leaders of doing? (rejecting Jesus, the Messiah, and murdering Him; Acts 7:52)
 - Whom did Stephen say he saw in heaven? (Jesus standing at the right hand of God, Acts 7:55-56)
 - What did the Jewish people do to Stephen? (threw him out of the city and threw stones at him, Acts 7:58)
 - What did Stephen ask the Lord to do? (to receive his spirit and not to hold his murderers' sin against them, Acts 7:59-60)

MAKE IT STICK

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- **Activity for PREK:**
 - Use tape to mark a line in the middle of the floor. On one side lay a piece of green paper that says YES and on the other a piece of red paper that says NO. Explain to the children that When you ask a yes or no question, they must answer the question by walking to YES side of the line or the NO side of the line. For example, if you ask "Do you like to eat apples?" the kids will move to the side of the line that matches their answer. Ask simple questions, such as "Do you like to watch TV? Do you like to read? Do you like to ride your bike? Do you like to come to church?"
 - Say • In the Bible story, Stephen had to make a choice. Some people wanted him to stop telling others about Jesus. The Bible tells us that Stephen decided to keep telling others about Jesus. Many people believed in Jesus because Stephen chose to tell others about Jesus even though other people didn't like it. Why did the people hurt Stephen? They wanted Stephen to stop telling people about Jesus.
- **Activity for 1ST-2ND GRADE:**
 - Before class, make two signs. Write afraid on one and not afraid on the other. Post the papers on opposite ends of the teaching space. Explain that you will call out common fears, such as fear of spiders or heights. If kids are afraid of what you call out, they should run to the "afraid" sign and make their best scared face. If they are not afraid, they should run to the "not afraid" sign and make their best brave face. Example of fears include snakes, spiders, heights, dogs, clowns, getting sick, flying in an airplane, being on stage in front of a lot of people, thunder and lightning, and theme park rides.
 - Say • In our Bible story, a man named Stephen was in a scary situation, but he was not afraid. Let's discover why he wasn't afraid. When we do, we will discover why we don't have to be afraid of anything either.
- **Activity for 3RD-5TH GRADE:**
 - Prepare by writing simple group actions on several index cards. (Suggestions: Do 5 jumping jacks, give a friend a high-five, jump as high as you can, say the alphabet as quickly as you can, and so forth.) Put the action cards in a bag. Position two hula hoops on the floor, several feet apart. Guide kids to stand. Explain that you read a statement. If kids agree, they should put one foot in the first hula hoop. If they disagree, they should put one foot in the second hula hoop. After kids have moved to a hoop, pull a card from the bag and instruct all the kids at the first hoop to do the action. Then play again with another statement and another card. Each time, the first group should complete the action.
 - Sample statements:
 - I think that dogs are the best animals in the world.
 - My favorite food is pizza.
 - Math is my favorite subject in school.
 - Say • Did any of you disagree with the statement just so you could avoid doing the action? In today's Bible story, a man took a stand for what he believed even though it cost him everything.

LET'S PRAY

6

- Encourage kids that **Jesus hears them** any time they are talking to him! This is a great way to grow closer to your children and to hear their heart. Ask Jesus to help you believe and do what you've learned together.
- **Praying Together:**
 - Start a family journal where you can remember together what you are learning, what you and your children are praying for and praising God for
 - Ask your children for one thing they want to thank or praise God for and one way they want God's help so you can pray about that together.
 - Preschoolers can learn how to pray by repeating small phrases after you as you pray aloud.
 - Visit our Family Resources page for more ideas!



BONUS!

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they know what the word "gospel" means. Clarify that the word gospel means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

- **God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.
- **We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)
- **God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.
- **Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.
- **We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.