

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Vary your tone:**
Speak softly and seriously when telling the story. When Stephen speaks, use a bold and confident tone.
- **Utilize eye contact:**
Hold kids' attention by scanning the room as you tell the story. Make eye contact with various individuals and use animated facial expressions.

Stephen's Address

Acts 6:8–7:60

One of Jesus' followers was named Stephen. God blessed Stephen and gave him power to do great wonders and signs among the people in Jerusalem. **One day, some Jews came and began to argue with Stephen. The Holy Spirit helped Stephen speak with wisdom,** so no matter how hard the Jews tried, they could not win the argument.

The Jews decided to lie about Stephen. They said that Stephen had spoken against God. **The people dragged Stephen to the Sanhedrin (san HEE drihn), which was the Jewish court.** There, they told more lies about Stephen. "We heard him say that Jesus will destroy the temple and change the laws that Moses gave us," they said.

"Is this true?" the high priest asked Stephen.

Stephen began to preach about Jesus. He started by reminding them about Abraham. God had made promises to Abraham and his son Isaac. **He reminded them about Joseph and Moses.** God kept Joseph safe when his brothers tried to hurt him, and God used Joseph to help all His people during a famine. **When God's people lived in Egypt, God called Moses to rescue His people from Pharaoh. Moses led God's people away from Egypt, but they turned against Moses and against God.**

God did not give up on His people, though. He was working out a plan. God worked through Joshua and David and Solomon. The religious leaders knew these stories from the Old Testament.

Stephen told them these stories to explain that Jesus was the Messiah God had promised! But just like their ancestors rejected and killed the prophets in the Old

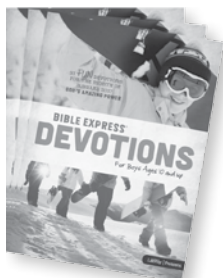
Testament, these Jewish leaders had rejected Jesus and murdered Him!

Stephen's words made the Jewish leaders so angry! Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he looked up into heaven. Stephen saw Jesus standing there.

“Look!” he said. “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

The Jewish leaders screamed at the top of their lungs. They covered their ears and rushed at Stephen. They threw Stephen out of the city and began to throw stones at him. As they were stoning him, Stephen called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” Then Stephen knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” After saying this, Stephen died.

Christ Connection: Stephen was killed because he was a Christian. Jesus was crucified, and He 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.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover how God's Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Dot-to-Dot

INSTRUCTIONS: Connect the dots in order.

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TGP FAMILY APP



KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

BIBLE STORY:

STEPHEN'S ADDRESS

- Some people told lies about Stephen.
- Stephen taught the Jewish leaders about Jesus.
- Stephen told people about Jesus, even when he would be hurt for it.
- Stephen saw Jesus standing at God's side before he died.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Whom did Stephen teach the religious leaders about?
- Why were the religious teachers angry at Stephen?
- How does knowing we will be with Jesus forever help us do hard things?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Spend a few evenings reading parts of Stephen's address as a family. Use the cross-references in your Bible to read the corresponding Old Testament accounts.

Preschool Activity Pages
Unit 28, Session 3



**MAIN POINT: STEPHEN TOLD PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS,
EVEN WHEN HE WOULD BE HURT FOR IT.**

Good, Better, Best

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TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Write numbers by each picture, ranking them. Compare your results with a friend.



pizza



toys



soccer ball



paint set



dog



books



Jesus



doll



games



cat

KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians follow Jesus.

BIBLE STORY:

STEPHEN'S ADDRESS

- Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit and did amazing things.
- The Jewish leaders wanted to silence Stephen.
- Stephen preached to them anyway.
- Stephen was not afraid to die so that others would hear about Jesus.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What do you think Stephen valued most?
- What do you value most?
- What can we do to value Jesus most in our lives?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Talk to your kids about the persecuted church and research places where it is worst. Take time to pray for those places.
- Take your family to skip rocks into water. Talk about what it means to love your enemies.







Younger Kids Activity Pages
Unit 28, Session 3

Can't Live Without It

Number the following items from 1 to 8.

1 = Can't live without it!

8 = Wouldn't miss it at all

	PIZZA
	FAMILY
	CELL PHONE
	PETS
	JESUS
	FRIENDS
	TV
	SNOW

LOOK, I SEE THE HEAVENS OPENED AND THE

FOOTLKN
 SNLKN
 WOXft
 DMHAb
 LMFJN

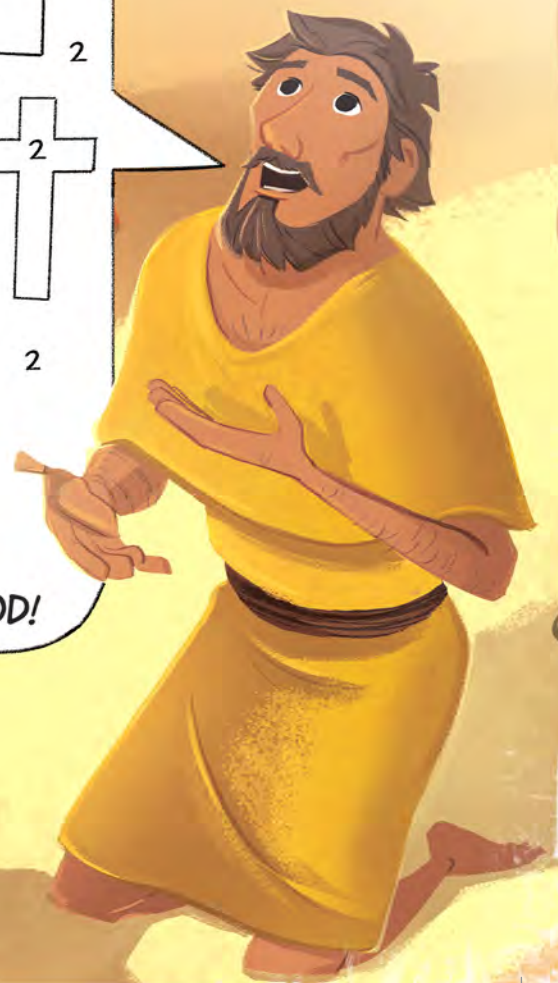
STANDING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD!

Stephen Said

Color in the spaces to discover what Stephen saw when he looked up into heaven.

1 - yellow

2 - blue



The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. 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.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.