

## THE EARLY CHURCH - STEPHEN'S ADDRESS

October 19, 2020

NT 401, WEEK 9

Preschool

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**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 6:8–7:60

**KEY VERSE:** *"I will...tell what You have done." Psalm 75:9*

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did the people hurt Stephen? They wanted Stephen to stop telling people about Jesus.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Be kind to one another." Ephesians 4:32

### WORSHIP TIME:

Pick 2-3 songs to sing.

### MEMORY VERSE TIME:

Take a few minutes to practice the Preschool Memory Verse for the month with the kids. Feel free to add actions to make it easier for them to learn.

### CIRCLE TIME:

#### ATTENTION GETTING DISCUSSION:

##### "Making Choices"

- Yes and No signs

On one side of the table, lay down the sign that says "YES" and on the other side, lay the sign that says "NO". Explain to the children that when you ask a "yes or no" question, they must answer the question by Pointing to the YES side or the NO side. For example, if you ask "Do you like to eat apples?" the kids will move to the sign that matches their answer. Ask simple questions, such as "Do you like to watch TV? Do you like story time? 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. But the Bible tells us that Stephen decided to keep telling others about Jesus. He knew that was the right thing to do. Many people believed in Jesus because Stephen told them about Jesus. Some people, however, didn't like it. **Why did the people hurt Stephen? They wanted Stephen to stop telling people about Jesus.**

## **BIBLE STORY TIME:**

**Say:** Being brave means doing what is right and good even if it's hard and even if you're scared. Sometimes people think that being brave means you don't get scared, but everyone gets scared sometimes.

Today we are going to learn about one of Jesus' friends. His name was Stephen. God helped Stephen be brave at a time when it was really hard to be brave. Stephen was one of the friends in the early church that we learned about last time.

*[Open your Bible to Acts 6. Remind kids that the Book of Acts tells about how the Holy Spirit helped the early church take the good news about Jesus everywhere they went.]*

**Say:** Stephen was a man who loved Jesus and helped others to love Jesus, too. Stephen trusted Jesus more than anything else. Some people didn't like Stephen's message about Jesus. Let's watch...

**Play video.** <https://lcc.org/kidscurriculum/> **After watching video, follow up with this discussion:**

1. Who was Stephen? *(A friend and follower of Jesus)*
2. Why were the Jewish leaders mad at Stephen? *(They were mad because Stephen told them that Jesus is the Messiah.)*
3. 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.)*
4. What did the people do to Stephen? *(They threw rocks at him until he died.)*
- 5. Why did people hurt Stephen? They wanted Stephen to stop telling people about Jesus.**

**Say:** People hurt Stephen because he followed Jesus. If people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave because He promises to always be with us. Did

you know people also hurt Jesus? Jesus died on a cross, for us, but he is alive, risen, and in Heaven with God.

**Pray:** Pray together, thanking God for His Son, Jesus, who gave His life for us. Thank Him for taking care of us and for always watching over us as we tell other people about Him.

## **CRAFT TIME:**

### **Jesus Says, "Go"**

Supplies needed:

- Traffic light Activity Sheet
- 3 circles – red, yellow, green
- Glue sticks

Directions:

1. Teacher guides the children in gluing the circles to the traffic signals. First, glue the red circle on top, then the yellow circle in the middle, and then the green circle on the bottom.
2. Ask the children if they know what the word on the green circle says. (GO)
3. **Say:** Jesus wants us to GO and tell others about Him. Who do you know that needs to hear about Jesus? What will you tell them? (Let them discuss.)

## **EXTRA CRAFT:**

Children may color the coloring page that corresponds with the story if desired.

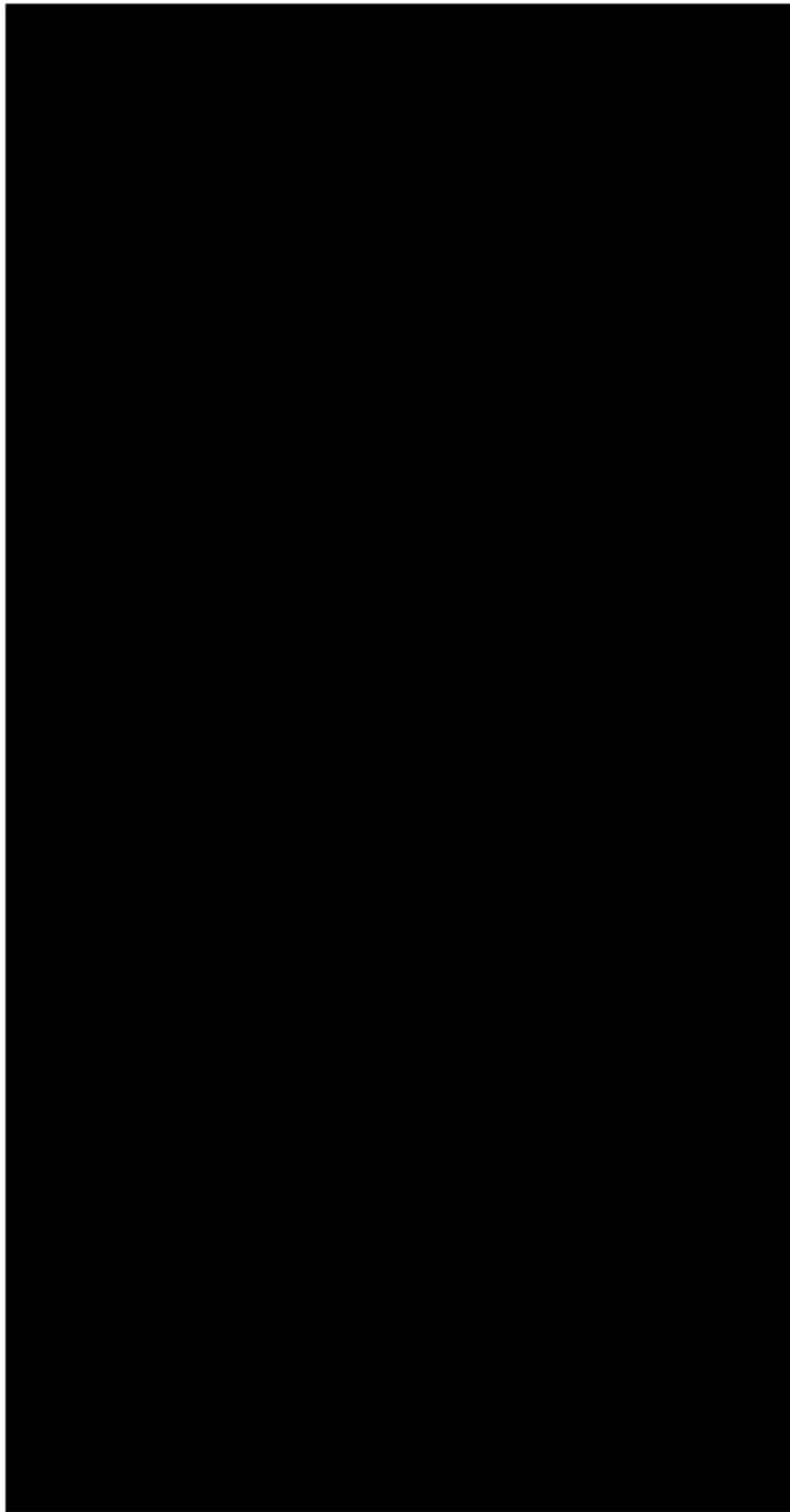
## **WRAP UP TIME:**

- Missionary Map

Show the children the map of the world. Point out where we live. Show the pictures of the missionaries that live in Colombia, Africa and India. Tell the children their names.

**Say:** A missionary goes and tells people about Jesus. Missionaries sometimes travel to places far from home. Like Stephen, sometimes missionaries face danger when they tell people about Jesus. But they don't give up! They know people need to hear the truth about Jesus. Pray together for our missionaries.

## Stephen's Address – Acts 6-7



Jesus wants us to choose to GO and tell others about Him.  
"I will...tell what You have done." Psalm 75:9

