

Dear Children's Ministry Leaders,

In light of churches across the country closing in response to COVID-19 safety precautions, we at Group Publishing want to ensure that your children continue to receive spiritual nurturing. As a result, Group is allowing churches who use our materials to send families lessons and student materials your kids would normally participate in at church. We hope you enjoy using this content in a different way, and that your kids are impacted.

**Group is extending the following permissions to churches upon request:**

- 1. Permission to share the included student materials with families from your churches via email, postal service, or a privately accessible, password-protected website that only families from your church can access.**
- 2. Permission to share other elements from the week's lesson, such as the teacher guide that goes along with this lesson, with families from your churches via email, postal service, or a privately accessible, password-protected website that only families from your church can access.**
- 3. Permission to share a video recording presenting this lesson with families via your church website or platform of your choice. (We ask that you remove the video each week when you post a new one.)**

You may decide to offer a video broadcast or pre-recorded video where you and your regular Children's Ministry crew lead these lessons digitally for families to partake in at home. Or you may encourage parents to lead these lessons, which creates a fun opportunity for them to see what a typical lesson for their kids is like.

**This permission is granted on a limited basis for as long as your church is unable to meet in person. Families are encouraged to use these materials within their households, but may not publish or share them in any way outside of your church family.**

If you want to use Group's materials beyond these permissions, email [permissions@group.com](mailto:permissions@group.com).

We hope God blesses your congregation through this unusual season, and that your community remains strong even though for a time you may not be meeting together.

God bless you, and stay healthy!

- Your friends at Group Publishing





LESSON 12

# Stephen Forgives His Accusers as They Stone Him

Acts 6:8-7:60

## BE PREPARED

Christians never have any fun!



---

---

---

---

Christians are wimps!



---

---

---

---

Only old people need Jesus!



---

---

---

---

Why would anyone want to go to church?



---

---

---

---



## BIBLE FOCUS (THE BASICS)

Stephen was doing great things for God, but some men from the Synagogue of the Freedmen didn't like what he was doing. So these men started making up stories and lying about what Stephen was saying and doing.

When the high priest asked Stephen about these accusations, Stephen talked about how his accusers' ancestors had made God's prophets slaves and even killed them. Then Stephen told them that they were just as bad as their ancestors because they had killed the Savior, Jesus.

Well, this didn't make them happy! In fact, they were furious. But Stephen looked up into heaven and saw Jesus! The men picked up stones and began to throw them at Stephen. As they did, Stephen cried out to God to forgive them. Then Stephen died.

**Bible Point:** We stand up for Jesus.

**Key Verse:** "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

## THE WORD FOR THE WEEK

### MONDAY Romans 1:16

In what ways do you show you're proud to be a Christian?

### TUESDAY 2 Timothy 4:2

How can you prepare yourself to give answers about Jesus to friends who ask?

### WEDNESDAY Hebrews 13:6

How can remembering God is your helper help you not be afraid to share your faith?

### THURSDAY 1 John 3:1-3

In what ways does knowing we're children of God help us stand up for Jesus?

### FRIDAY Daniel 12:3

How can you become wise so that you can "shine like the brightness of the heavens"? How can that help others see Jesus?

### SATURDAY John 9:4

What's the work God wants you to do?

### FAMILY FUN Faith Finders



Get together with your family members and practice sharing your faith. Gather brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and grandparents, and have everyone share his or her faith in God. This would also be an excellent opportunity for you to share the good news about Jesus with family members who aren't Christians. When you've finished sharing, write notes to give to one another that will encourage you to keep sharing your faith and telling others about Jesus, even when it may seem difficult. Give one or more of these notes to each family member to read when feeling discouraged about sharing his or her faith.



### ASK YOUR FAMILY

- What does it mean to stand up for Jesus?
- What can we do to always be prepared to tell others about Jesus?
- How can we share our faith without being rude?

### Daily Challenge

Today kids committed to one of the following Daily Challenges. Help your child weave faith into life this week and follow through on his or her challenge! (Have kids circle their choice below.)

- Reread Acts 6:8–7:60 and list all of the people Stephen named and how they stood up for their faith.
- Pray every day for courage to stand up for Jesus.
- Tell a friend who is not a Christian why you are a Christian.