

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



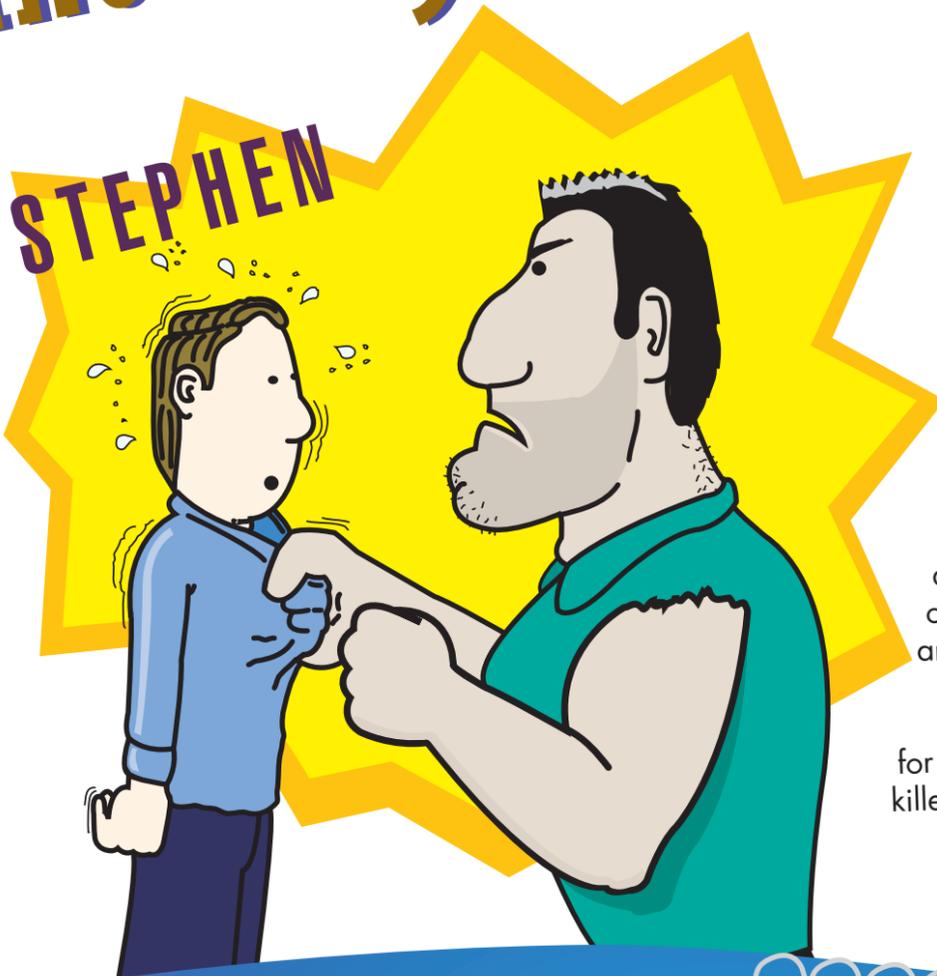
# Bible Buzz

## Lesson 12

# Connecting Words and Actions

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STEPHEN



Acts 6:8-10—Instead of standing up to the synagogue members, Stephen backs down and gives up.

Acts 6:11-15—Instead of standing up to his accusers, Stephen starts to get scared and backs down.

Acts 7:1-3 and 7:51-53—Instead of Stephen showing how the prophets have been murdered through the ages, Stephen gives a short speech about how everyone's entitled to his or her own opinion and religious people have no right to judge anyone.

Acts 7:54-60—Instead of Stephen standing up for his faith, Stephen tries to talk his way out of being killed and then runs for his life.

## BE PREPARED

You and your friends are going on a 10-day camping trip in the mountains. You'll be far from civilization, so you need to make sure to pack everything that you'll need. Use this notepad to list everything you'll need to be prepared for your trip.



**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).**

## IN THE BIBLE

One day Stephen was just sitting around minding his own business when he was captured...

Well, that's not *exactly* how it happened. See, Stephen *wasn't* just minding his own business. He was preaching, he was teaching, he was healing, he was caring—he was standing up for his faith every chance he got.

Some of the Temple leaders didn't like that too much, so they got a few people to make up some lies about Stephen and then they captured him. Yet even when he was in this dangerous situation, Stephen continued to stand up for the truth! He took a deep breath and started preaching—and it ended up being the last sermon of his life. He made the crowds so mad that they stoned him...and even *then* he stood up for his faith! He called out to Jesus and asked God to forgive the people who killed him. Now that's *really* standing up for your faith! (Acts 6:8-7:60)

• When people get angry with you for sharing your faith, how do you handle the situation?

• How can you share your faith with those who don't know Jesus?

• What's one way you'll stand up for your faith this week?

### Daily Challenge

Instead of choosing a Daily Challenge this week, tell a partner about what you wrote

on your "Pocket Pack" card. Your Daily Challenge this week is to stand up for your faith by following through and doing what you wrote on your "Pocket Pack" card.

## Family Fun

As a family, have a "stand up" discussion of how to show God's love in action. Start with everyone sitting down. Then, one at a time, each family member stands up and tells the family about the reasons he or she believes in Jesus.

## The Word for the Week

### Monday / ROMANS 1:16

- In what ways can you show that you're proud to be a Christian?

### Tuesday / 2 TIMOTHY 4:2

- What are some ways you can be prepared to give answers about Jesus to friends who ask?

### Wednesday / HEBREWS 13:6

- How can remembering that God is with you help you not to be afraid to share your faith?

### Thursday / 1 THESSALONIANS 3:6-9

- How does standing up for your faith encourage other believers?

### 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?

## Bible Point

We stand up for Jesus.

