

Q11

BIBLE STORYLINE

Stephen Lives For Jesus

PursueGOD.org

Slide: Welcome

(Start kid's countdown once all classes are present.)

Hey kids! Welcome to Kid's Church. I'm so glad you could be here today.

Slide: Series Intro

We're going to start by answering some hard questions. Are you ready? Has someone ever done something mean to you? (allow kids to answer). Kids can be mean sometimes, huh. Have you ever done something mean to someone else? (allow kids to answer). We've all made mistakes but we can learn from them, right? Have you ever had to forgive someone else, or have you been forgiven for something you've done? Right, we all have!

Well, in today's lesson we're going to learn about how a guy named Stephen forgave some people who did some really mean things to him. This story comes from the book of Acts and it has a lot to teach us today.

We'll talk about that some more in a few minutes. But first, let's stand and sing a song together.

Song

Unglued

Good job! I think God loves hearing all your voices praising him! Now let's say our Big Idea together.

Slide: Big Idea

All together:

We can choose to be like Jesus, even when it's hard. (Repeat)

Video

Play lesson video.

Slide: Recap

So, what did we learn from the video today? Let's review...

- What was Stephen's job? (giving food to people who needed it)

- What did Stephen ask God to do to the people that killed him? (forgive them)
- True or False: We should choose to be like Jesus. (T)

As Christians we should all try to be like Jesus. That means being nice and loving to those around us, no matter what. And, that can be really hard to do. It's extra hard when the people around us aren't very nice. But God wants us to love people, even the mean ones. He wants us to forgive the people who hurt us. That might sound like it's impossible but it's not. Stephen's story shows us that it's possible.

Stephen was a nice guy who wanted to serve others and he loved Jesus. But, some people hated that Stephen loved Jesus so they bullied him by throwing rocks at him! Eventually, this mob of mean people killed Stephen for no good reason. But, guess what? Stephen was able to respond with love and forgiveness. You know why? Because he kept his eyes on Jesus and remembered that Jesus had forgiven him. And, with Jesus' help, Stephen had the strength to love and forgive his bullies. And, Stephen thought about the hope of heaven and that he would be with Jesus when he died.

That reminds me of our memory verse. Let's all stand and say it together.

Slide: Memory Verse

"Look, I see the heavens opened (hand above eyes, looking out) and the Son of Man standing (hands on hips) in the place of honor at God's right hand. (point up)" Acts 7:56 (Repeat)

This verse shows us that Stephen was focused on Jesus. He knew that no matter what happened, he would come out okay because he had the hope of heaven.

Would forgiveness be on your mind if you were being bullied? It probably wouldn't be, huh. But that's why it's so important to always be thinking about Jesus. Jesus died so that we could all be forgiven. If we are choosing to be like Jesus, then we should also choose to forgive. It's going to be really hard sometimes, but God will give you the strength to do it.

Now let's all stand and sing one last song together.

Song

Live It Out

Okay, let's all say the Big Idea together one last time!

Slide: Big Idea

We should choose to be like Jesus, even when it's hard. (Repeat)

Slide: Let's Pray

Pray and dismiss.