

CHAMPS



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

5/9/2015

PRAY FOR WISDOM:

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son to redeem us. Through His sacrifice on the cross, You extend unending, undeserved forgiveness to your church. Help us bestow the same love and forgiveness to others who may have injured us.

Lord, use Stephen's powerful example to encourage the children to forgive others and not to hold grudges. In Jesus name, amen.

LESSON MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 7:60 "Stephen asked God to forgive the people who hurt him."

BIBLE LESSON: Angel Face (based on Acts 6:8 ---- 7:60)

Stephen lived in Bible times. He was one of God's best helpers. The Lord gave Stephen power to do wonderful things for others. Stephen also told many people about Jesus. They learned how much God loved them.

But some mean men didn't want others to hear the things Stephen said. They became very angry. They wanted to stop Stephen from talking about Jesus! So, the mean men told their leaders, "Stephen says bad things about God!" But that wasn't true! Stephen the Lord!

God's Spirit gave Stephen real power to live
He spoke words of truth and he chose to forgive.

The mean men brought Stephen to their leaders. They ordered Stephen to explain what he was teaching. When Stephen started speaking, everyone saw that his face looked like an angel's!
God's Holy Spirit filled Stephen with power and courage to speak. Stephen told them about the amazing things God had done for His people in the Bible. He reminded them that God is good and that the Lord takes care of His people. Stephen told them that God always keep His promises.
Then Stephen told the leaders that Jesus was God's Son. Jesus was the special One God had promised to send His people. But the leaders didn't want to hear about Jesus. They refused to believe Stephen's words. Soon they became very angry! But Stephen wasn't afraid. He had told them the truth.

God's Spirit gave Stephen real power to live

He spoke words of truth and he chose to forgive.

Then Stephen looked up. He saw something that made him very happy! “Look, I can see into heaven,” Stephen said. “And Jesus is standing right beside God, His Father!”

Now the mean men became very, very, angry! They didn’t want to hear any more. They shouted at Stephen and covered their ears. Then they grabbed Stephen and dragged him outside the city. They started throwing large rocks at Stephen.

God’s Spirit gave Stephen real power to live
He spoke words of truth and he chose to forgive.

Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, take my spirit to be with You in heaven.” Just before Stephen died, he said “Lord, please forgive the men who are doing this to me.” Stephen asked God to forgive the mean men for the wrong things they had done. Then Stephen went to heaven to be with Jesus, his best Friend.

ACTIVITIES:

Forgiveness Hugs- (Supplies: strip of butcher paper for each child, crayons, heart stickers, markers)

Trace your child’s outstretched arms and hands on the strip of paper using crayons. Then help your child draw lines to connect the arms. Use a marker to write “I will forgive” on the arms, and allow the children to decorate with the stickers and crayons.

Talk with the children about the different situations when they might need to forgive someone, such as someone pushing them, not sharing with them, or taking something of theirs without asking. After situation have them give someone a huge by wrapping the paper arms around them and saying, “I will forgive.”

Forgiveness Circle (Supplies: CD player, lively praise music)

Have the children form two circles, one inside each the other. Have the children walk clockwise in one circle and counter-clockwise in the other as you play the praise music. When you stop the music have the children face each other and hug the person in front of them. They should say to the person they hug, “I will forgive you.”

For additional resources please visit:

<http://www.discipleland.com/>