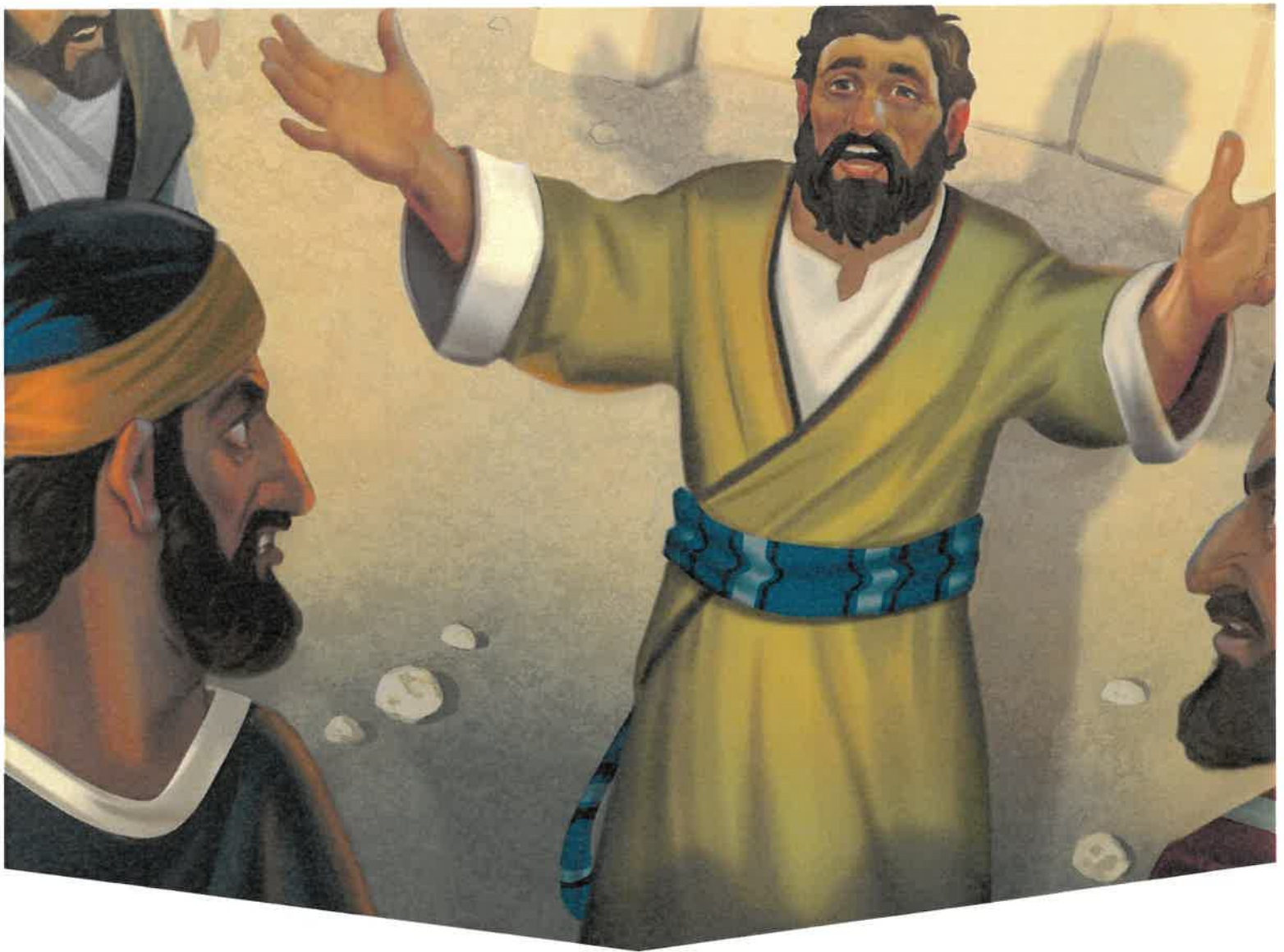


Grades 1-3 Lesson Template

Where	Who and What	What you Need
Classroom	Teacher takes attendance Give students a sticker	Paper on table, check off who is here, put onto the clipboard
	Do "Picture this" activity where students have to guess who they are talking about in the Bible. Draw the different scenes and guess the character. See attached notes.	Whiteboard Marker Drawing clues
	Talk about how Stephen goes and talks about all of these characters to the Sanhedrin (religious leaders)	
Large Group	Large Group Time: Leader is Lorene. She will get you when ready	
Classroom:	Group Discussion Questions on page 34	
	Word search and "Do you remember?" worksheet	Worksheet
	Hand out the bingo page with parent letter to each kid if they were not here last week.	Bingo pages



UNIT 31 | SESSION 3

STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED

ACTS 6-7

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 53:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus told His followers that they would be persecuted—hated, hurt, or even killed—for loving Him. Jesus also said that those who suffer for Him would be blessed. We can face suffering in this life because Jesus suffered first. He died and then rose again, and He is waiting for us in heaven.



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Do you know what the word reject means? Explain it to me. How does it feel to be rejected? Why?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What’s the Order?” on the activity page.

SAY “Today, we will see how a follower of Jesus named Stephen shared the gospel by showing how the stories from the Old Testament point to Jesus as the Messiah.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: WHAT DO YOU REJECT?



Invite kids to form a large circle. Tell kids that you will say two items and they need to reject one over the other option. Remind kids that reject means to choose not to accept or believe something or someone. Lead kids to stay seated in the circle if they reject the first option or stand up if they reject the second option. Consider using the examples below or create your own:

- Popcorn or ice cream cone
- Video game or board game
- Riding a bike or rollerskating
- Pizza or hot dog
- Pool or beach

SAY “This game showed us that we rejected something over a different option. Today, we’ll learn how the religious leaders rejected the truth about Jesus over their own unbelief. Our Bible story helps us understand how a man named Stephen shared the gospel, but the religious leaders rejected him and refused to believe his words.”

☐ OPTION 2: PICTURE THIS!

Direct kids’ attention to the dry erase board and explain that they will have an opportunity to create a picture. Invite a volunteer to draw a sun and then return back to her seat. Choose another kid to draw a mountain. Continue inviting kids to draw the following elements one at a time: rocks, sand, bush, and fire on the bush. Direct kids to look at the picture and have them describe it to you.

SAY “The picture you helped create illustrates a scene from the Bible. Does anyone remember a Bible story about a bush that was on fire but the fire didn’t burn the leaves? **[Allow responses.]** God spoke to Moses through a burning bush and called Moses to rescue His people from Egypt. Today, we will learn how a man named Stephen used Old Testament Bible stories to create a picture of how God was working to bring the Messiah—Jesus—into the world. Let’s get ready to learn more.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**



Drawing Clues for Jesus

1. Baby in a Manger

- Draw a baby lying in a box of hay with a star overhead.
- Represents Jesus' birth in Bethlehem (Luke 2:7).

2. Cross on a Hill

- Draw three crosses on a hill with one in the center.
- Represents Jesus' crucifixion on Calvary (Luke 23:33).

3. Crown of Thorns

- Draw a crown with thorns and a sad face.
- Represents Jesus' suffering before the crucifixion (John 19:2).

4. Loaves and Fish

- Draw 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish.
- Represents the miracle of feeding the 5,000 (John 6:10–13).

5. Walking on Water

- Draw waves with footprints or a figure standing on water.
- Represents Jesus walking on the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 14:25).

6. Empty Tomb

- Draw an open tomb with the stone rolled away and a sunrise.
- Represents Jesus' resurrection (Matthew 28:6).

7. Heart with a Cross Inside

- Draw a heart with a cross in the middle.
- Represents Jesus' love and sacrifice for us.

Drawing Clues for Joseph

1. Colorful Coat

- Draw a long robe with lots of bright colors or rainbow stripes.
- Represents the "coat of many colors" Joseph's father gave him (Genesis 37:3).

2. Sheaves of Wheat Bowing

- Draw standing bundles of wheat, with some bowing toward one bundle.
- From Joseph's dream where his brothers' sheaves bowed to his (Genesis 37:7).

3. Pit or Well

- Draw a big hole in the ground with a sad or surprised person inside.
- Represents when his brothers threw Joseph into a pit (Genesis 37:24).

4. Chains or Prison Bars

- Draw a sad face behind jail bars or shackles.
- Joseph was wrongly imprisoned in Egypt (Genesis 39:20).

5. Pharaoh's Dream – Cows or Grain or

- Draw 7 skinny cows and 7 fat cows (or ears of corn).
- From Pharaoh's dream that Joseph interpreted (Genesis 41).

6. Throne and Grain Storehouse

- Draw Joseph sitting like a ruler next to piles of grain.
- Represents Joseph being made second-in-command and storing food (Genesis 41:39-49).

Drawing Clues for Abraham

1. Stars in the Sky

- Draw a night sky filled with stars and an old man looking up.
- Represents God's promise: "Your descendants will be as many as the stars" (Genesis 15:5).

2. Tent in the Desert

- Draw a tent with sand dunes or camels nearby.
- Abraham lived in tents and traveled from place to place (Genesis 12:1).

3. Baby and Elderly Couple

- Draw a baby with two older people smiling beside him.
- Isaac was born to Abraham and Sarah in their old age (Genesis 21:1-3).

4. Altar with a Ram

- Draw a small altar with a ram nearby on a mountain.
- Represents the story of Abraham being tested with Isaac and God providing a ram (Genesis 22:13).

5. Sand on the Seashore

- Draw waves and lots of little dots in the sand.
- Another part of God's promise: "Your descendants will be as numerous as the sand on the seashore" (Genesis 22:17).

Drawing Clues for Moses

1. Burning Bush

- Draw a bush with flames coming out of it (but not burning up!).
- This represents God speaking to Moses from the burning bush (Exodus 3).

2. Tablets with 10 lines

- Draw two stone tablets with Roman numerals or lines to suggest the Ten Commandments.
- Represents God giving the law to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20).

3. Parted Sea

- Draw two big waves with dry ground in the middle and little footprints.
- Represents Moses parting the Red Sea (Exodus 14).

4. Baby in a Basket

- Draw a baby lying in a basket floating on water with reeds.
- Represents Moses as a baby in the Nile River (Exodus 2).

5. Shepherd's Staff

- Draw a crook or staff, maybe with a sheep nearby.
- Represents Moses as a shepherd in Midian and his staff used in miracles (Exodus 4).



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Acts 6–7. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Stephen Was Arrested.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED

“**Stephen was one of Jesus’ followers.** God blessed Stephen and gave him power to do great wonders and signs. **One day, some Jews began to argue with Stephen. The Holy Spirit helped Stephen speak with wisdom,** so no matter how hard the Jews tried, they could not win the argument.

But the Jews lied about Stephen; they said he had spoken against God. The people dragged Stephen to the Sanhedrin (san HEE drihn), the Jewish court, and told more lies. “We heard Stephen say that Jesus will destroy the temple and change the laws that Moses gave us,” they said. “Is this true?” the high priest asked Stephen.

Stephen began to preach about Jesus. He reminded the court about Abraham. God had made promises to Abraham and his son Isaac. He reminded them about Joseph and Moses. God kept Joseph safe when his brothers tried to hurt him, and God used Joseph to help all His people during a famine. **When God’s people lived in Egypt, God called Moses to rescue His people from Pharaoh.** Moses led God’s people away from Egypt, but they turned against Moses and against God. **God did not give up on His people,** though. **He was working out a plan.** God worked through Joshua and David and Solomon.

The religious leaders knew these stories from the Old Testament. Stephen told them these stories to explain that Jesus was the Messiah God had promised! But just like their ancestors rejected and killed the prophets in the Old Testament, these Jewish leaders had rejected Jesus and murdered Him!

Stephen’s words made the Jewish leaders so angry! Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked up to heaven and saw Jesus standing there.

“Look!” he said. “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

The Jewish leaders screamed at the top of their lungs. They covered their ears and rushed at Stephen. **They threw him out of the city and began throwing stones at him. Stephen called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” Then he said, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” After this, Stephen died.**

Christ Connection: Jesus told His followers that they would be persecuted—hated, hurt, or even killed—for loving Him. Jesus also said that those who suffer for Him would be blessed. We can face suffering in this life because Jesus suffered first. He died and then rose again, and He is waiting for us in heaven. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use the timeline: Point to the stories on the timeline or refer to past Bible story posters as you tell about the Old Testament stories. Remind kids of God’s faithfulness to follow His plan to send Jesus into the world to rescue sinners.

Use dramatic voice: Tell the story with a dramatic voice to emphasize the emotions of each character.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY 🗣️ Stephen loved Jesus, and he was even one of the men chosen to serve the church in last week's story. He was full of the Holy Spirit and performed signs and miracles. Who argued with Stephen and made up lies about him? **[Allow responses.]** The religious leaders didn't like how they couldn't win arguments against Stephen, so they arranged for people to lie about Stephen. When the leaders asked Stephen to defend himself, Stephen began to preach about Jesus.

What stories from the Old Testament did Stephen share to show the religious leaders that Jesus is the Messiah God promised? **[Allow responses.]** Stephen spoke about God's promise to Abraham, Joseph in Egypt, Moses and the burning bush, Joshua's conquering of the promised land, and even how Solomon built God's temple. Stephen reminded the Jewish leaders that even though God's plan was at work to send Jesus into the world, His people rejected His prophets' messages.

Who did Stephen say the religious leaders rejected? **[Allow responses.]** Stephen reminded the Jewish leaders that they had rejected and murdered Jesus. **Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.** But the religious leaders did not accept the truth of the gospel.

The Jewish leaders became incredibly angry. They threw large stones at Stephen. But Jesus was with Stephen. Who did Stephen see as he was being stoned? **[Allow responses.]** As Stephen was being killed for preaching about Jesus, he saw heaven and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. This gave Stephen hope as he faced death. We can have the same kind of hope Stephen had. If we have trusted Jesus as Savior, we can face any type of suffering or death knowing that Jesus is waiting for us in heaven. 🙏

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY 🗣️ Jesus told His followers that they would be persecuted—hated, hurt, or even killed—for loving Him. Jesus also said that those who suffer for Him would be blessed. We can face suffering in this life because Jesus suffered first. He died and then rose again, and He is waiting for us in heaven. 🙏

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the "Unit 31, Session 3" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What type of persecution do Christians today face for their faith in Jesus?
2. How can we pray for persecuted Christians?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY 🗣️ One challenge that Casey and Amy Jones have when they are trying to tell German people about Jesus is that the people do not know the stories of the Bible. They do not believe there is only one true God and that His Son, Jesus, came to save us from sin. Another challenge is that the older



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

people in the area lived during a time when people in their country could not freely talk about Jesus or about being a Christian. Even though you can now talk in Germany about Jesus, it's still hard for some people to want to hear about Jesus. ”

Play the missions video. Pray that God will help the Jones family and other missionaries in Germany find ways to boldly tell people about Jesus and that God would open people's hearts to believe the truth of the gospel. Remind kids that Jesus said that those who suffer for Him would be blessed. We can face suffering in this life because Jesus suffered first.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Isaiah 53:5 together.

SAY “ Jesus suffered and died to pay for our sins. As Jesus’ followers, we can have hope when we suffer or go through hard times because Jesus died and rose again. ”

Form kids into a circle. Hold a ball in your hand and say the first word of the key passage. Then toss or roll the ball to a kid and challenge him to say the next word in the key passage. Continue tossing or rolling the ball until the entire key passage has been said. Repeat, making sure each kid has a turn.

Lead kids to sing “By His Wounds (Isaiah 53:5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Thank You, Lord, that You are always with us and for giving us hope through Jesus. Help us face hard times with courage, knowing You will give us strength. In Jesus’ name, amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 31 • Session 3

STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED

Acts 6-7

WHY DID JESUS BECOME HUMAN? JESUS BECAME HUMAN TO OBEY HIS FATHER'S PLAN AND RESCUE SINNERS.

Stephen was one of Jesus' followers. One day, some Jews began to argue with Stephen. The Holy Spirit helped Stephen speak with wisdom.

But the Jews lied about Stephen; they said he had spoken against God. The people dragged Stephen to the Jewish court, and told more lies.

Stephen began to preach about Jesus. He reminded the court about Abraham. He reminded them about Joseph and Moses. When God's people lived in Egypt, God called Moses to rescue His people from Pharaoh. God did not give up on His people. He was working out a plan.

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Word Search about Stephen

Find and circle the hidden words about a disciple named Stephen.

Word Bank

Stephen	Jews
stoned	rejected
preach	prophets
Jesus	heaven
Messiah	spirit

X O M J E W S T N S
Y M E S S I A H I V
S R B J E S U S Z V
T F E M H E A V E N
O M E J S P I R I T
N B S T E P H E N R
E T X L K C V C O N A
D E M F P V T M N A
D W P R O P H E T S
P R E A C H B V D O

Do You Remember? | Match each description to the correct person from today's Bible story.

☐

1) God made promises to him and his son, Isaac.

(Acts 7:8)

☐

2) He was sold as a slave to the Egyptians but God was with him.

(Acts 7:9)

☐

3) God used him to rescue the Israelites from Pharaoh.

(Acts 7:36-37)

☐

4) They turned against God and made a golden calf.

(Acts 7:39-41)

☐

5) He is the Messiah God promised. He was rejected by His people.

(Acts 7:52)



A. Israelites



C. Joseph



D. Jesus



E. Moses



B. Abraham

