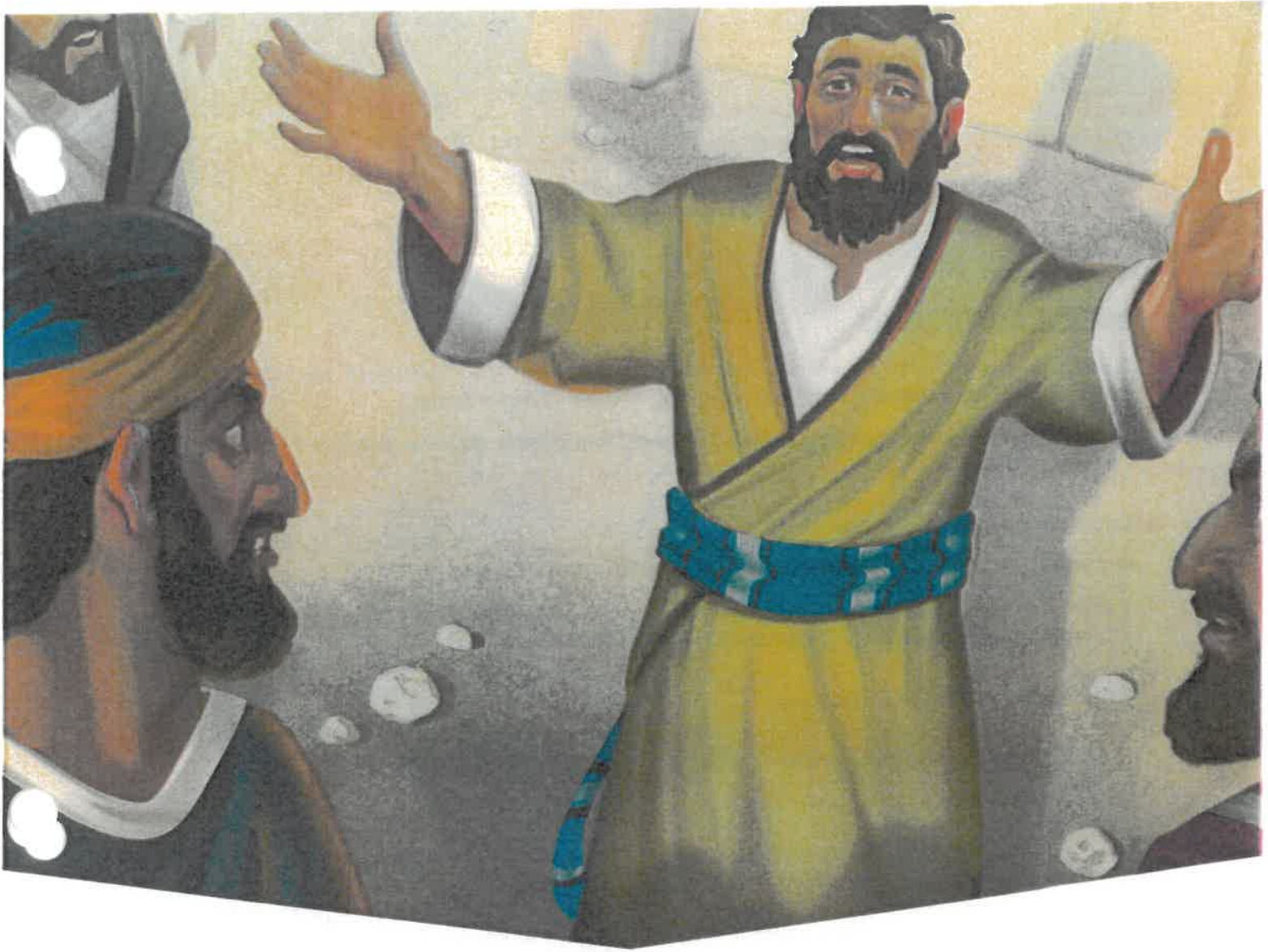


Large Group Leader:

Time	Slide	What to Do	Materials
10 minutes	1	Set up Computer with songs on Youtube, google slides powerpoint for today	
3 minutes	2	Start timer. Invite classes to join	Timer video
2 minutes	3	Welcome kids Collect the offering: For the Philippines, to buy a sink.	Offering bag
	4	Birthdays: Sing Happy birthday to Reuben Gorter (age 7), Addison Mutch (age 7), Zara vaandrager (age 8)	
2 minutes	5-6	Call to Worship: Psalm 8 - which is being done in church today	Bible
	7	New Song: Video 10,000 reasons Focus on Chorus first verse, second verse	
	8	New Memory Verse: Galatians 5:22-23 But the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.	
	9	Song: The Fruit of the Spirit	
		Choose to do another song here using youtube if you want	
	10	Tell the story (see notes from story if you wish to tell it from here)	
3 minutes	11	Watch the video of the story	powerpoint

		<p>Ask a few questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What stories did Stephen talk about from the Old Testament? 2) How did the religious leaders feel about Stephen talking about Jesus? 3) What happened to Stephen? 4) How can we pray for people who are sharing about Jesus in hard places? 	
	14	Questions from kids: Play video: About praying for the persecuted church	
	15		
2 minutes	16	<p>Pray with the kids</p> <p>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.</p>	
	17	<p>Talk about the BINGO page "Where's the Word?"</p> <p>Encourage kids to continue to read the Bible at home and bring their paper back in when they get Bingo!</p>	
1 minute	18	<p>Do the blessing with them:</p> <p>May the Lord Bless You and Keep you.</p> <p>May he make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you His favour and give you peace."</p>	



UNIT 31 | SESSION 3

STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED

ACTS 6–7

KEY PASSAGE:

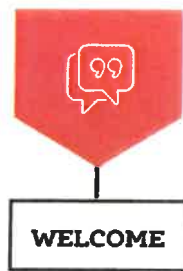
Isaiah 53:5

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**





LEARN

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**



