

# Bible Time for Kids!



**CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:**

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**LESSON TITLE: Stephen**

**THEME: We should be bold and tell others about Jesus without fear.**

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 6:1 – 8:2**



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids. This is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

This week we learned about Stephen. The theme was "We should tell others about Jesus wherever we go!" Stephen was the first Christian martyr. He was the first person to die for his faith in Jesus Christ. There is a lot that we can learn from Stephen's life and his simple obedience to Jesus.

We see that Stephen was a faithful man, filled with the Holy Spirit. He was appointed to a position of leadership in the church. He was used by God to boldly preach the gospel and died a hero's death (in God's eyes) by standing up for what he believed in. Let's look at this man of God and see what little nuggets of truth the Lord would teach us this week...

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 6:1 - 8:2**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

# A Faithful Witness

**Text: Acts 6:8** – “And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.”

**Also read Acts 6:1-8**

Jack was very tired! He had been up all night while his little sister was crying. She was very ill and Jack's whole family was praying for her. They were worried that they might have to take her to the hospital. Jack didn't understand a lot about Jesus and had not yet prayed for his sister. He had only listened to his father pray. Dad was always talking about the miracles that God did for him. Jack thought they could sure use a miracle now. His little sister was so small. He loved her very much. Jack felt as if he needed to talk to God, but he didn't know how. He knew that his father believed in Jesus with all of his heart and was always asking Jack if he wanted to have a personal relationship with Jesus. Jack called his father into the room. He told his dad he wanted to accept Jesus into his heart. His father was thrilled.

When Jack knelt down on his knees to ask the Lord Jesus to come into his heart, his dad began to praise Jesus for Jack's desire to know Jesus. Jack asked Jesus to heal his little sister. His father thanked God for what He has done for his family and in Jack's life. He also prayed for the healing of his daughter. The next few hours, Jack and his family spent in prayer. Then a little while later, Jack's little sister opened her eyes, he could hardly contain his shout of joy. He knew Jesus had healed her!

Today we read about a very faithful man, Stephen. Stephen was given a very important position by the apostles of Jesus. He was to oversee the daily needs of the growing church. The Bible speaks about the faithfulness of Stephen and how he was filled with the Holy Spirit. God used him greatly. Jesus wants us to be faithful and to be witnesses just like Stephen and like Jack's dad. Jack's dad was a faithful example to Jack and led him to Jesus. We also need to be good examples and lead others to Jesus. Let's be faithful in all things that Jesus gives us.

- What made Jack see that he needed Jesus in his life?
- How was Jack's dad a faithful example to Jack?
- How do you think that Stephen had such great power?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Faithful:** Worthy of trust or belief

Day Two

# A Fearless Testimony

**Text: Acts 6:7** - "Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith."

**Read Luke 24-46-52; also read Acts 6:3-7**

Brad was never afraid to tell others about Jesus. He would often tell his friends about Jesus and their need to ask Him into their hearts. Larry could not believe how much his friend Brad loved Jesus. No matter where he went, he was telling others about Jesus. Larry wasn't like that at all. He would pray every night for the same kind of boldness to share his faith with others.

One day Larry asked Brad how he could have that same kind of boldness. Larry said that the best thing for him to do would be to pray and ask the Lord for boldness. Larry began to pray and he asked the Lord to help him learn how to share his faith with others more. Larry had a real desire to help others know about Jesus. The next day Brad called Larry and shared with him some great news. He was going to be moving and would be moving right into Larry's neighborhood. Larry was excited because now they could hang out together and Larry could learn more about how to share with others about Jesus. Larry knew the Lord had answered his prayer. He also learned that sharing about Jesus was a very important part of being a disciple of Jesus and he thanked God every day for his brother-in-the-Lord, Brad.

When Jesus first chose His disciples they didn't have a fearless faith. They were unsure of themselves. After Jesus suffered and died on the cross, He returned to His disciples and told them that He wanted them to tell others all over the world about Him. They were to disciple others who loved Jesus. So the new disciples learned how to be a good witness of Jesus from the apostles, just like Larry learned how to share his faith from Brad. Is there and "older" Christian that you know who you could learn from? Maybe you could spend some time with them and learn more about being Jesus' disciple.

- Have you ever felt you needed more boldness to tell others about Jesus?
- Do you share your faith with your family and friends?
- Who was chosen by the disciples to continue witnessing about Jesus?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Disciple:** One of Jesus' followers.

Day Three

# Strength to Speak of Jesus

**Text: Acts 6:12** - "Then they secretly induced men to say, 'We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.'"

## **Acts 6:8-15**

It is amazing what God can do through a person who obeys Him. There are so many people in the world who have been tested in their faith as Stephen was. There are many people who have even been killed because they said they believe in Jesus. In our Bible reading today we see a man who had a very strong faith in Jesus. This is the kind of faith that stands before the world and speaks of the love of Jesus for the world. Stephen was so firm in his faith that it changed even the way his face looked. His face began to shine. Does our face shine with the love of Jesus?

Stephen had to stand before a pretty scary group of people. They were some of the most powerful people in that day. They were the leaders of the people. It might be kind of like us standing before the President and all of the congressmen and senators in Washington, DC. That might be kind of scary. But these leaders weren't nice at all. In fact they all lied about Stephen and brought false charges against him. But through it all, the presence of God was very evident, as his face began to shine like an angel. Even though things got very scary for Stephen, God was there with him through it all.

Sometimes the world may test our faith. They may even say things about us that aren't true. Or we may find ourselves in a scary situation just like Stephen. People might even hate us or try to hurt us because we love Jesus. But we need to remember that we have a marvelous Lord who loves us and will stand by us no matter what. He does not always stop all of the trials that may come our way, but He will see us through them. Think about a person who exercises in order to become strong. In order for muscles to get strong they have to be used again and again. Usually it is painful to work out to make the muscle stronger. But eventually the muscle is strengthened. When our faith is tested it produces strength in our lives. Let's be like Stephen and be strong in the Lord no matter what happens.

- Was Stephen's heart filled with fear?
- What was Stephen's heart filled with? (See Acts 6:8)
- What was the council unable to resist? (See Acts 6:10)

### **Kid's Bible Dictionary**



**Strength:** Power to resist force.

# Moving Forward with Jesus

**Text: Acts 20:24** - "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

**Also read Acts 20:17-28**

Charles and his family moved a lot. They never stayed very long in one place because Charles' dad had to go where God was calling him. He was a missionary and planted churches in other countries. It was tiring sometimes to pack and then to unpack, but Charles couldn't remember a time when the family didn't get excited about the new location that they would move to.

His dad is a missionary and tells people about Jesus. There are a lot of people who need to hear about the Lord. The family got to go to a lot of places many people had never seen before. There were some fun times, but there were sad times too. Charles remembers the time when an older man ran out of the church while his dad was teaching the Bible. He was a leader in the town and he was so upset that he got several other people in the town to come against his dad and ask them to leave the city. Charles didn't remember his dad ever being as quiet as that night that they received the news. But his mom encouraged the family telling them they were just planting seeds about Jesus, and that's what God wanted them to do. His dad told them that they would move on to the next city, following where Jesus would lead them, just like Paul, who we read about in today's Bible reading.

Paul did follow where Jesus sent him. He listened to God and went where the Holy Spirit sent him, like Charles' family. We can't all be Paul or like Charles' family traveling around the world, but we can spread the love of Jesus wherever we go and no matter what happens in our lives. But in order to be a good witness of Jesus we have to get to know Him really well. A great way to do that is to get to know the Bible better. God has a special plan for each of our lives. We just need to obey and let Him use us.

- Why was Charles' family so happy to move a lot?
- What happened when Charles' father was told they would have to leave the city they were living in?
- Does sharing about Jesus make you happy?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Sharing:** To give away a part of something you already have. Sharing Jesus with people is to share love.

# A Revealing Love

**Text: Acts 7:55** - "But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, 'Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!'"

## Read Acts 7:54-60

Our last devotion looks at the end of Stephen's life. He began his service to Jesus full of faith and power and now we see him at the end of his service, very much blessed by God. The leaders stirred up the people so much that they began to stone Stephen. But as they began to throw rocks he looked up and saw the glory of God. Even though Stephen would die for believing in Jesus, we see that God was with him all of the way.

In our story we see Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Everywhere else in the Bible we hear about Jesus "sitting" at the right hand of God. It is as if He is taking very special notice of His precious servant Stephen. God loves you and me very much. He is concerned when we suffer, especially when we suffer for His name. Stephen was the first of many who would lay down their lives for the sake of Jesus. Many more today are still being beaten or killed in certain countries in this world. We need to pray for those who are persecuted, or killed for their faith.

We also see that Stephen asks the Lord to forgive those who are killing him. What a heart that is like Jesus! Jesus is so forgiving to us and in the same way Stephen asks the Lord to forgive the people who are stoning him. He knew they didn't understand about how much Jesus loves them. But we also see that the love and forgiveness Stephen showed may have helped a special person in that crowd that was trying to hurt Stephen. It was a young man named Saul, who later would meet Jesus and have his whole life changed. He would then become the great apostle Paul. We never know how our lives might affect others. Let's be faithful to the Lord like Stephen was!

- Name some ways you can share Jesus with others.
- Make a prayer list of people you know who don't know Jesus.

### Kid's Prayer Time



This week pray about how you can share Jesus wherever you go. Pray for the people on your prayer list and ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to witness about Jesus to them. Pray each week for those people with your family.

# Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs...”

Third Grade and Above

“And the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of faith and power did great wonders and signs among the people.”

**Acts 6:7-8**