

Follow Jesus #1

Verses: Acts 6:8-7:60

Story: Stephen's Story page 131 in Believe Storybook

Main Points:

- What do I want my kids to know? I can follow Jesus no matter what
- What do I want my kids to do? Ask Jesus what He has for them
- What do I want my kids to feel? Excited

Verse: "If anyone wishes to follow Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me..." Luke 9:23

INTRODUCTION

- Introduction question: What does it mean to stand for Jesus?
- Introduction Activity: Make a Stand
 - Have each person take turns to "stand firm." You can try to push the person over or try to convince them to sit down.
 - Talk about how we can "stand" for Jesus by believing in Him and sharing the good news. Ask the kids what people can take away from you (money, things, clothes, toys, etc.). Remind the kids that nobody can take away their belief in Jesus.
 - Talk about how even though we might be pushed over physically or hurt physically but no one can take away Jesus from us and our belief in Him.

STORY

CRAFTS

- Megaphones
 - Talk about how we can be brave and stand for Jesus. Share that one way we can stand for Jesus is by telling people about them. Another way is by standing up for people when others are being unkind. We can also do the right thing no matter what and tell the truth.
 - Use paper to make a megaphone (and you can decorate it



with crayons, markers, stickers, or paint) and have the kids shout into their megaphones. They can share the Bible verse or share the good news or say, “I’m standing for Jesus!”

- **Rock Painting**

- You can paint or color rocks. Write FORGIVE on the rocks and talk about how Stephen chose to forgive those who were trying to hurt him. Talk about how we can forgive others too.
- You could also use the rocks as “paint brushes” and make a painting.



ACTIVITIES AND GAMES (Pick one, two, or all!)

- Lego Bible Verse

- Write and tape the Bible verse onto Lego Duplos or other blocks. Have the kids put together the verse. You could also make this into a relay where the blocks need to be gathered and then put together.

- Forgiveness Fizz

- Use an aka-seltzer tablet (or you could use baking soda and vinegar). Let each child take a turn to think of someone they need to forgive (you can give an example from your own life too). Explain that when we are hurt and angry it hurts us too, but we can ask God to help us forgive. As they watch the tablets fizz have them imagine giving their hurt to God to heal.

- Standing Firm

- Use blocks or legos to create a sturdy structure. Talk about how we want to be firm and not shakeable in our belief in Jesus. Talk about what might come against us as we stand firm for Jesus. Have the kids come up with responses to each scenario.
 - People might say Jesus was just a good man
 - The Bible is not true.
 - I don't need to believe in Jesus.
 - I should put myself first.

- Forgiveness Relay

- Mark out a heart on the floor with tape or go outside and use chalk. Inside the heart, place several objects with labels on them listing different hurtful things that could happen (someone taking a toy, being called a name, being ignored, not being included, etc.). On the opposite side of the room, have a basket big enough to hold the objects. Share that when someone does something that hurts our heart, we can choose to forgive them with God's help. We can go to the person to fix the friendship and we can ask God to help heal our heart. Share about how Stephen told the people that he forgave them.
- Explain that in this game we are going to practice forgiving us and keeping our heart clean. Each turn someone can run to the heart and grab an object to bring back. They can then put the object in the basket and say, "I forgive you!"

SNACK

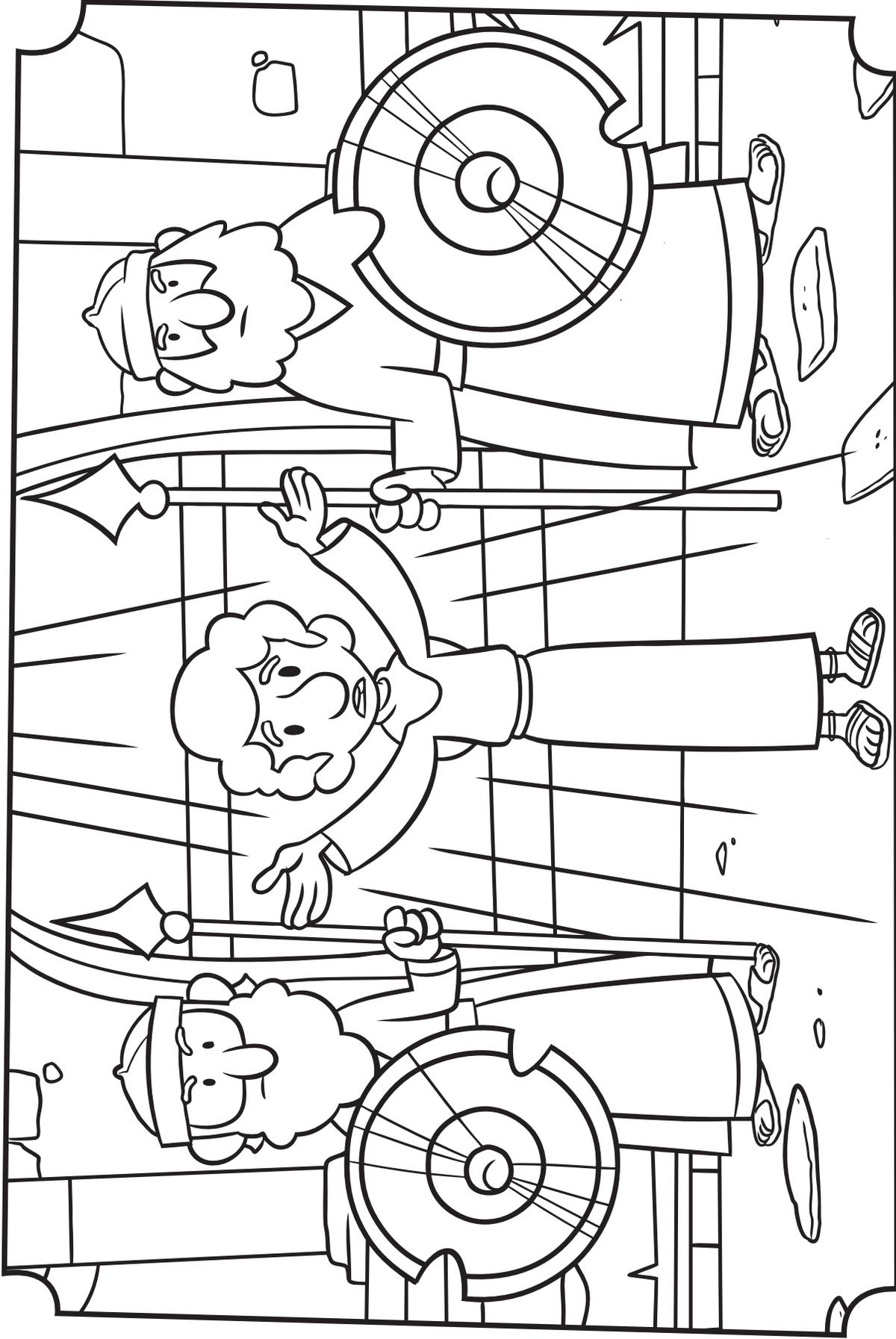
- Milk and Cookies
 - Dip your cookies into the milk and see how the cookies become soft. Talk about how when we spend time with Jesus, we can keep our hearts soft. When our hearts are soft, we can see things from Jesus' perspective and this helps us to forgive others.

SONG:

I have decided to follow Jesus

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What happened to Stephen in our story? *He died and went to heaven to be with Jesus*
2. What did Stephen say to the people before he died?
3. What can you do if people hurt you?
4. Have you ever had a hard time forgiving others?
5. What can you do if someone tries to have you believe in someone other than Jesus?
6. How can you stand for Jesus?
7. Who is someone you could share the good news with?



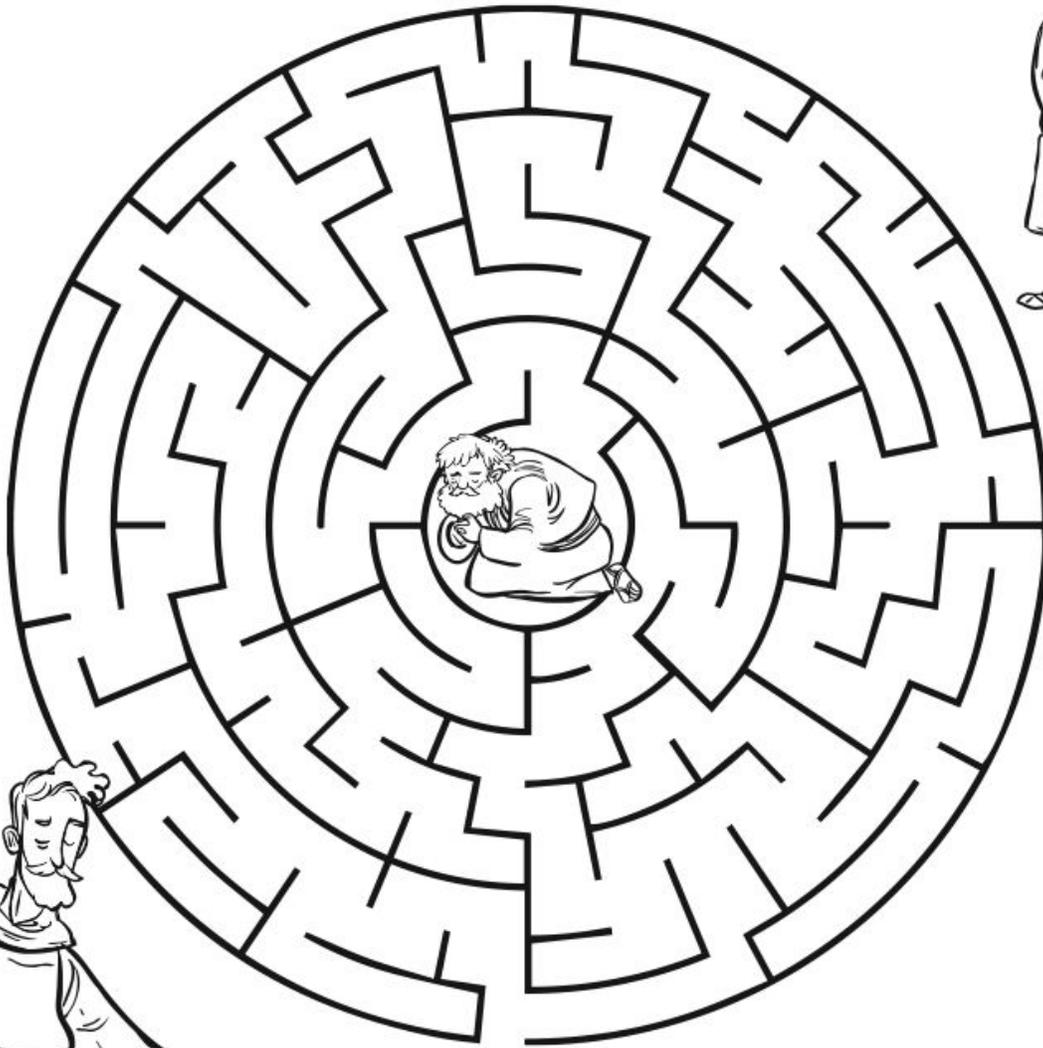
Stephen was a new believer who taught many people about Jesus. But the Pharisees and Sadducees did not like the preaching of Stephen and Jesus' disciples. Eventually, Stephen was captured and killed for his faith.

From Volume 1:
The Story of
Stephen
(The Book of
Acts)

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THE STONING OF STEPHEN

Help Stephen preach to the man.



START



