

Large Group

Stephen Was Arrested

Bible Passage: Acts 6-7

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:5

Big Picture Question: **Why did Jesus become human?**

Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.



Countdown Video (3 mins)

Worship Song (4 mins)

Worship Leader briefly introduces self, welcomes kids, leads 1st worship song, and prays for the time.

Welcome (1 mins)

Large Group Leader tell kids what to expect to happen (1 minute)

- watch the lesson video
- retell the story.
- read the story from scripture

Watch the Lesson Video (4 mins)

Retell the Story (11 mins)

Lead the kids in a fun retelling of the story

Here are some resources to help you formulate this time.

Review what we learned:

The apostles preached the gospel and thousands of people trusted in Jesus. The church continued to grow. But as the church grew, they faced trouble. Many apostles were questioned, arrested, and beaten for trusting in Jesus. A couple of weeks ago, we learned that Peter and John were told to never preach the gospel again. Did they stop? [Allow responses.] No! They obeyed God rather than men.

Last week, we learned that believers also faced problems within the church. But God gave the church wisdom to choose men to serve the needs of the church, and the church continued to grow. Today, we will learn about a follower of Jesus named Stephen who preached the gospel with boldness in front of a group of angry Jewish leaders.

Today's Lesson

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.

Christ Connection I 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.

Read from the Bible (4 mins)

Acts 6:8-14; 7:1-2, 8-10, 20, 34-37, 39-40, 45-47, 54-60

Remind Kids of Four Questions (1 min)

- What did you like about today's story?
- What did you find confusing?
- What did you learn about people?
- What did you learn about God?

Memory Verse Song (4 mins)

Worship Leader connects the lesson to the memory verse, leads the memory verse song with hand motions, and closes in prayer.