

May 24, 2020

**1. Read: Acts 6-7**

- If you have younger children that you think this Bible story is too long for, please see the attached modified version.

**2. Activity: Scared?**

**What You Need:** nothing

**What You Do:**

- **Read** a “Scared? Scenario” listed below.
- **Tell** everyone to rate how scary the thing or activity on the card is.
- **Explain**, if they think it is . . .
  - Not scary at all – hold up a fist
  - Not scary NOW but it used to be scary – hold up one finger
  - Scary – hold up two fingers
  - So scary you would scream – hold up three fingers (or let everyone scream, if you’re brave!)
- Scared? Scenarios:
  - Swimming
  - Diving off a diving board
  - Climbing in a cave
  - Scary movies
  - Singing a solo in front of your school
  - Inviting your friend to church
  - Puppies
  - Spiders
  - Taking a test
  - Being around people who are arguing
  - Speaking in front of a crowd of people
  - Climbing a tall ladder
- Potential discussion topics:
  - **Select** a “Scared? Scenario” that received a lot of “Not scary NOW but it used to be scary” ratings and **ask**: Why isn’t *[read one of the scenarios]* scary anymore?
  - **Allow** kids to suggest things that could be scary and **let** the group rate how scary that thing would be for them.
  - Ask: When was a time you were scared but you kept doing what you were supposed to anyway?
  - Ask: How does knowing who God is and that He’s always with us help us keep going in the middle of something hard, scary, or confusing?

**Close in Prayer**

Acts 6-7 (modified story version for younger children)

“Today’s Bible story is about a man named Stephen. Stephen lived when the church was just beginning—not long after Jesus died and came back to life.”

“As the church grew, there were some believers who needed food and special care. Peter and the apostles made a plan for how to help these believers.”

Here’s what happened.

*“The 12 apostles gathered all the believers together. They said, “It wouldn’t be right for us to give up teaching God’s word. And we’d have to stop teaching to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven of your men. They must be known as men who are wise and full of the Holy Spirit. We will turn this important work over to them.”* Acts 6:2-3 (NirV)

“Stephen was one of the seven men who were chosen to help care for the new believers and make sure they had everything they needed.”

“Some people tried to start arguments and fights with Stephen, but the Holy Spirit gave him wisdom to answer them. Stephen’s enemies couldn’t make him angry, so they decided to start telling lies about him. They said he had spoken against Moses and God.”

“This made the religious leaders very angry, so they arrested Stephen and brought him before their gathering called the Sanhedrin. They found people who were willing to tell lies about Stephen. But even though Stephen was being treated so badly, he didn’t look upset. He was determined. His face was like the face of an angel.”

“The high priest asked Stephen if the things the people had said about him were true. Stephen knew that God was with him. He wanted the leaders to understand that Jesus was the One they had all been waiting for—He was the Savior whom God had promised.”

“Stephen started to tell the story of God’s people. He talked about Abraham and Joseph and how God’s people were slaves in Egypt. He told them of everything God did through Moses to free the Israelites and bring them to the Promised Land. He spoke about King David, who loved God and wanted to build Him a beautiful temple.”

“Then Stephen told them about Jesus: God’s Son. It must have taken a lot of strength and courage, but Stephen didn’t back down. He said:

*“You have handed [Jesus] over to his enemies. You have murdered him.”* Acts 7:52 (NirV)

“The leaders were very angry. Stephen looked up and saw a vision of heaven, with Jesus standing at God’s right hand. He knew that God was with him.”

“The religious leaders covered their ears and yelled in order to keep from hearing another word. They ran and grabbed Stephen and dragged him out of the city. Then they began to throw stones at him.”

*“He cried out, “Lord! Don’t hold this sin against them!”* Acts 7:60 (NirV) *When he had said this, he died.*

“It was a very sad ending. But Stephen knew that it wasn’t really the end, because he would be able to live with Jesus in heaven forever.”