

Lesson 129: Stephen Stands Up for God

[Acts 6:8–7:60](#)

Youtube Link for Teachers: <https://youtu.be/AKPmo2hmO3g>

Children's Bible Story Video: <https://youtu.be/FW6WFipflis>

Worship Theme: God is honored when we stand up for him.

Memory Verse: "But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God." (Acts 7:55)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. It's a Great Day <https://youtu.be/Z91SULEHfho>
2. I Have Decided <https://youtu.be/MR1Yv--Q4oo>
3. Be Strong and Courageous <https://youtu.be/Mr7oyUvG7U8>

Pray

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker:

Materials Needed: 2 balls

1. Divide the children into 2 groups and ask them find a partner from their group.
2. Each group gets a ball. Then they have to piggy back their partner.
3. When the game starts, each partner will kick the ball (while carrying their partner on their back) to the end of the classroom and return to the starting point.
4. When the first pair returns, then the next pair can take the ball and continue to play the game.
5. The first team to finish the game wins the game.
6. After the game, explain to the children that even when the partner was heavy, carried them till the end of the game. In the same way, we need to stand up for Jesus until the end of our lives.



Introduction:

Have you ever been afraid to tell someone about Jesus but you did it anyway? Has anyone ever gotten mad at you for believing in God or for doing what's right? Have you felt afraid to speak the truth about God to someone? Today, let's learn about a man who was not afraid to share about Jesus even when they threatened to kill him!

Bible Story:

After Jesus' death and resurrection, his followers preached about him with all their heart everywhere they went. One of the believers was a man named Stephen. He was full of faith and the Holy Spirit. He did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.

Many people didn't believe Jesus was God's Son. They hated the things Stephen said. They told lies about him, which caused everyone to hate him. They dragged Stephen to court. One last time Stephen challenged them to believe in Jesus. This made them furious, and they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city, and began to stone him. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." Then he died.

Stephen was the first Christian martyr. A martyr is a person who is put to death because of his or her beliefs. Stephen was stoned because he preached about Jesus. When he stood up for God, Stephen brought great honor to God. Many people believed in Jesus because of Stephen's actions.

The Holy Spirit and Jesus were with Stephen as he stood up for God, even to the point of death. Most of us will never have to face death when we talk about Jesus, but God

promises to be with us no matter what the situation. Whether it's telling people that Jesus loves them or telling a friend not to steal, taking a stand brings honor to God.

Once again, standing up for God means that we will do what's right even if others disagree with us. It means speaking the truth about God when others say things about him that aren't true. It means telling others about Jesus even if they think he's not real.

Jesus was the perfect example of someone who stood up for God. Jesus spoke the truth about God even when people hated him for it. He obeyed God in everything, even though it meant being put to death on the cross.

Because we have his example, we can stand up for God, too. We can be like Stephen and tell people, "Jesus loves you!" We can be like Stephen and learn Bible stories. We can be like Stephen and love God with all our hearts. We can be like Stephen and love people around us, even the ones who are not nice to us. Every time we do things like that, we are standing up for God and honoring God!

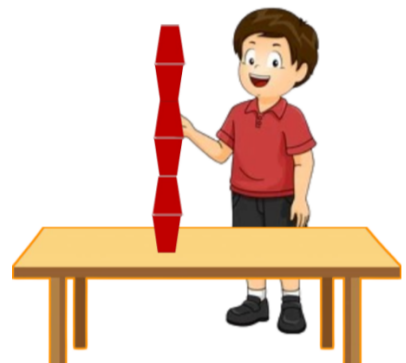
Questions to discuss:

1. How did Stephen stand up for God? (He loved God, love people, performed miracles, told people about Jesus, and even forgave the ones who killed him)
2. What happened to him? (People who didn't believe that Jesus is God stoned him to death)
3. What stops people from standing up for God? (Let the children answer)
4. How can you stand up for God? (Let the children answer)

Game: "Stand Up for God"

Materials Needed: Paper cups, table.

1. Divide the children into two groups and ask them to stand in two lines.
2. When the game starts, a child from each group will run to the table and place a cup on the table.
3. Then the next will run and place another cup on top of that cup.
4. Continue to play the game until one team has 6 cups standing.
5. If the cups fall, they have to start again from the start.
6. After the game, explain to the children that sometimes it is hard to stand up for Jesus just as it was hard for the cups to stay standing. But we must always stand up for Jesus because he is our powerful King!



Memory Verse:

"But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God." (Acts 7:55)

Craft: "Stephen Stands Up for God" - Coloring Page

Print the coloring page for the children.

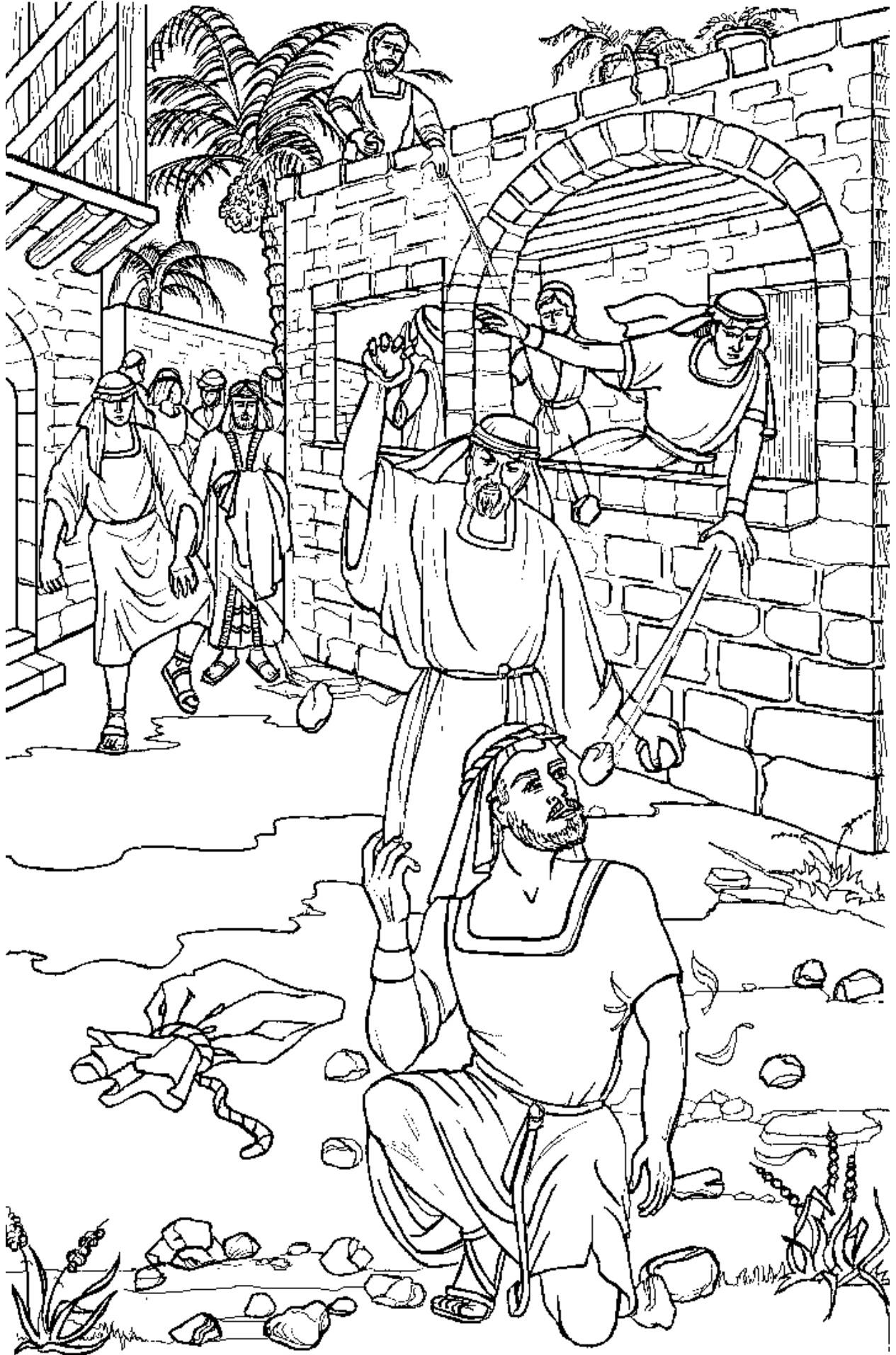
Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

A growing relationship with Jesus produces faith and courage in the heart and life of a Christian. This courage allows us to speak the truth in the face of danger. You may never be called upon to die for telling the truth about Jesus, but Christians have died—and continue to suffer and die—because of their outspoken faith and commitment to truth. Take a moment to thank God for men and women who, like Stephen, have given their lives for the sake of the gospel. How can you honor them in your life? You share in their work each time you tell the truth about the life and work of Jesus Christ.

Stephen Stands Up for God



Memory Verse: _____
