

**August 11**  
**9:00am & 11:00am**  
*Three and Four Year Olds*  
**STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED**  
(Acts 6-7)

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus told His disciples that people would hurt them for loving Him. When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave because people hurt Jesus too. Jesus died and came back to life, and one day we will live with Him forever.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. Isaiah 53:5

**Key Passage Phrase:** *Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5*

## LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

### 1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Ask preschoolers to think about a time when someone was mean to them. Invite preschoolers to use facial expressions to show how it makes them feel when someone is unkind to them. Share an age-appropriate personal example if you have one.

**SAY** *When people are mean to us, we might feel sad or even angry. In today's Bible story, we will hear a story about a man who did the right thing. Even though he followed God, people were mean to him and hurt him. Let's listen as I tell you this true story from God's Word.*

### 2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

\*9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.\*

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date  
(If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

*If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.*

### 3. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** *Our big picture question is, **Why did Jesus become human?** The answer is, **Jesus became human to rescue sinners.** Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners. He did this by dying on a cross. Jesus died and came back to life so we could be saved. People did not like what Stephen was preaching about Jesus. Even though Stephen was hurt because he loved Jesus, he never stopped following Him. People might be mean to us or hurt us because we love and follow Jesus, but we can be brave when we remember that Jesus was hurt by others, too.*

### 4. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

*This will be done in the [Activities](#) section.*

### 5. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Review today's Bible story by asking the following review questions.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary.*)
2. What did Stephen teach the religious leaders? (*He taught them stories from the Old Testament. He also taught them that Jesus is the Messiah.*)
3. Why were the leaders angry at Stephen? (*They did not like the message he was teaching them.*)
4. When we tell others about Jesus, will everyone like what we say? (*No. Jesus tells us some people will be mean to us because we love Him.*)

## 5. Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

**SAY** Stephen loved Jesus. He wanted everyone to know that Jesus came to earth, died on the cross, and came back to life to save people from their sins. Some people did not want Stephen to tell others about Jesus. They made up lies about him. Stephen used stories from the Old Testament to teach the truth about God and Jesus to the religious leaders. They hurt Stephen because he loved and followed God. Jesus told His followers they would be hurt because of their love for Him. When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave and follow Him. Jesus gives us strength to share His love with others, even when they are mean or hurtful to us.

## 6. PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

**SAY** God, thank You for people who serve in our church. Thank You for the ways they help spread the gospel by serving others. Even though we are young, there are ways we can serve, too. Show us how we can be helpers at church. Amen. .

## ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OR ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES BELOW)

### MAKE A KEY PASSAGE CHAIN

Before the session, make copies of the “Key Passage Chain” printable for each child. Cut each strip along dashed lines. Give each child a cut copy of the printable and help him put the words in order by using the numbers and the picture icons on each strip. Once the phrase is in order, read it aloud pointing to each word as you say it. Then, distribute a roll of clear tape and help the child tape the strips into interlocking links creating a chain.

**SAY** We learned that Stephen was arrested because people told lies about him. When the priest asked Stephen if the people were telling the truth, Stephen told the religious leaders that Jesus was the promised Messiah. God sent Jesus to take our punishment, just as our key passage says.

### STAND AND SIT

Invite preschoolers to stand up if the statement you share is true (or right). Lead preschoolers to sit down if the statement is false (not right). Use some of the following statements or create your own:

Stephen loved and followed God. (true)

I should be mean to others around me. (false)

People made up lies about Stephen. (true)

When you look in the sky, you can see earthworms. (false)

Stephen told religious leaders about Jesus. (true)

The Bible is God's Word, and it is true. (true)

**SAY** The religious leaders wanted to know if Stephen was telling the truth about Jesus. Stephen taught the leaders about Jesus. He started at the beginning of the Bible and shared true stories of how God took care of His people. Everything in the Bible is true, and everything in the Bible points us to Jesus.

### COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE (please send this home with parents)

As children color, emphasize the Christ Connection

**SAY** People hurt Stephen because he followed Jesus. When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave because people hurt Jesus too. Jesus died and came back to life, and one day we will live with Him forever.

## OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

Open your Bible to Acts 6 and tell the following Bible story. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

### STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED

## STORYTELLING TIPS

*Point to the sky:* Encourage preschoolers to point to the sky with both hands when you say “God” throughout the story.

*Look at pictures:* Use an illustrated Bible or show past Bible story picture posters of Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, and Solomon when their names are mentioned in the story.

**Stephen was a man who loved Jesus** and served the church. **God was good to Stephen and gave him power to do great things.** One day, **some Jews** told lies about Stephen. They **did not like Stephen, and they wanted him to get in trouble.**

**The high priest asked Stephen if the Jews were telling the truth. Stephen answered by teaching the Jewish leaders about Jesus. He started in the Old Testament with stories about Abraham and Isaac, Joseph, and Moses.**

*In those days, God was working out His plan to bring someone into the world who could save people from their sins. God chose to do great things through His people, the Israelites. He rescued them from slavery in Egypt. And even though the people did not obey God or love God like they should, God did not give up on them.*

*God worked through Joshua and King David and King Solomon. Stephen taught the religious leaders new things. **He said that Jesus is the Messiah, and the religious leaders were wrong to reject Him and kill Him on the cross.***

**The religious leaders were so angry! They did not like what Stephen was saying.** But Stephen looked up and said, “I see the heavens opened and Jesus is standing at God’s right side.” Suddenly, the people yelled, covered their ears,

*and rushed toward Stephen. **They made Stephen leave the city, and then they threw rocks at him. Stephen said, “Jesus, forgive them!” Then he died.***

*Christ Connection: Jesus told His disciples that people would hurt them for loving Him. When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave because people hurt Jesus too. Jesus died and came back to life, and one day we will live with Him forever.*

## DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child’s sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today’s activity page to reinforce today’s Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

**August 11**  
**9:00am & 11:00am**  
*Two Year Olds*  
**STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED**  
(Acts 6-7)

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** We can follow Jesus even when it is hard because Jesus died for us.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** *Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5*

## LEARN

*(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)*

### 1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Walk around the room and invite children to get into line behind you and to follow you. When all of the children have joined the line and are following, say to them that you are going to change things up a bit. Invite children to tiptoe with you. Then guide them to stomp. Prompt them to walk really slow, and then encourage them to skip. End the game by showing the children how to stand up really straight and tall as they walk with you to the group time area. Ask children to be seated.

**SAY** *Thank you for following me. What are some of the ways that you followed me? [Give children time to answer.] What is the last way that you followed me? We walked to group time standing up straight and tall, didn't we? In our Bible story today, Jesus is going to stand up for a man named Stephen. To stand up for someone means to agree with and to be happy with what they are doing. Listen carefully to our video as we learn more about what it means to stand up for Jesus.*

### 2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date  
(If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

*If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.*

### 3. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Sing to the tune of "London Bridge":

"We can tell about Jesus, about Jesus, about Jesus. We can tell about Jesus. He is our Savior."

**SAY** *Stephen loved and followed Jesus. Stephen told people about Jesus. He wanted everyone to know that Jesus is the Savior.*

## ACTIVITIES

### TRACE A HEART

Instruct toddlers to follow the outline of the heart on the **heart printable** by using a **dot marker** to place a dot on each grey circle. Retell the story as the toddlers work.

**SAY** *Stephen loved Jesus very much. Stephen followed Jesus even when it was hard. Can we follow Jesus too? Yes! We can follow Jesus even when it's hard because Jesus died for us.*

### COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the GOSPEL GEMS below:  
Stephen loved and followed Jesus.  
The religious leaders did not like what Stephen said.  
Stephen was hurt for following Jesus.

### OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

Open the Bible to Acts 6-7 and tell the following Bible story:

Stephen loved Jesus. One day, some Jews told lies about Stephen. They did not like Stephen, and they wanted him to get in trouble. The religious leaders asked Stephen if the Jews' words were true. Stephen told the leaders about Jesus. He said that Jesus is the Messiah, and the religious leaders were wrong to kill Jesus on the cross. The religious leaders did not like what Stephen was saying. Stephen looked up and said, "I see Jesus standing next to God." Suddenly, the people yelled, covered their ears, and ran toward Stephen. They made Stephen leave the city, and then they threw rocks at him. Stephen said, "Jesus, forgive them!" Then he died. .

**Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.**