

Family Worship

Stephen's Martyrdom

4·10·2020

Opening Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for our family.

And thank you for the privilege of coming together for worship.

Help us to understand Your Word and obey it with a joyful heart.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

Shout to the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FfJ9w1idAc&app=desktop>



Catechism Time!

Bible truths for teaching children

Question 19

Q: Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?

A: Yes, God reconciles us to himself by a Redeemer.

Let's remind ourselves:

God provides the solution to our problem.

Bible verse (Isaiah 53:10-11)

This was written hundreds of years before Jesus!

But it was the Lord who decided
to crush him and make him suffer.

So the Lord made his life a penalty offering.

But he will see his descendants and live a long life.

He will complete the things the Lord wants him to do.

He will suffer many things in his soul.

But then he will see life and be satisfied.

My good servant will make many people right with God.

He carried away their sins.

What Have We Learnt So Far in Acts Chapters 1-6?

1. Holy Spirit Came at Pentecost



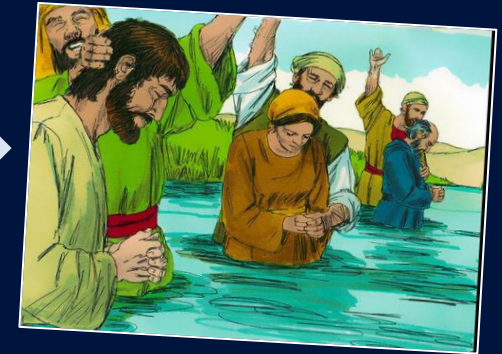
2. Believers spoke about Jesus in different languages



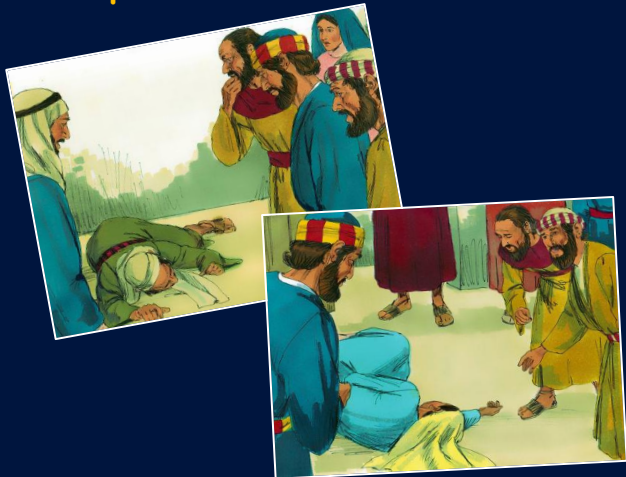
3. Peter preached boldly...



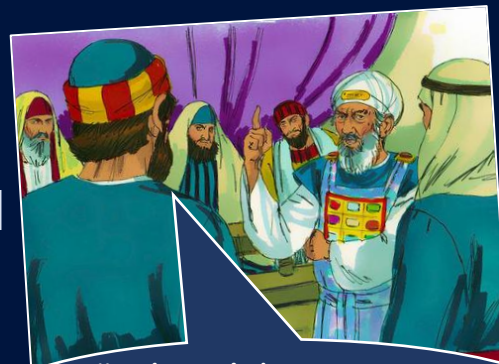
4. 3000 believed that day!



8. A loving community that shared everything and the importance of holiness



7. The Jewish leaders threatened Peter, but he stood firmly



"Should we obey you or God?"

6. Then Peter & John were arrested for preaching Jesus' resurrection



5. Peter miraculously healed a lame beggar outside the Temple



Can you use the words/phrases below to tell the story of Acts 1-6?

- ❖ Filled with the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Power
- ❖ Church grew from 3000 to 5000
- ❖ Shared the Good News
- ❖ Courage
- ❖ Many believed in Jesus
- ❖ Truth
- ❖ Miracles
- ❖ Arrested
- ❖ Loving community
- ❖ Sin against the Holy Spirit was unacceptable (Ananias/Sapphira)

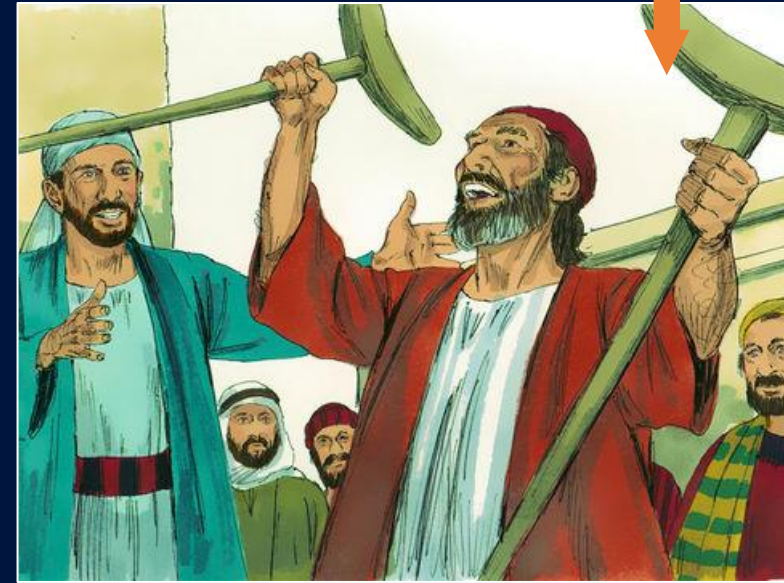
Today we will learn about Stephen

Stephen was one of the 7 chosen leaders to serve the Church

He was richly blessed by God. God gave him the power to do great miracles among the people

And the Church continued to grow

Stephen was well liked...

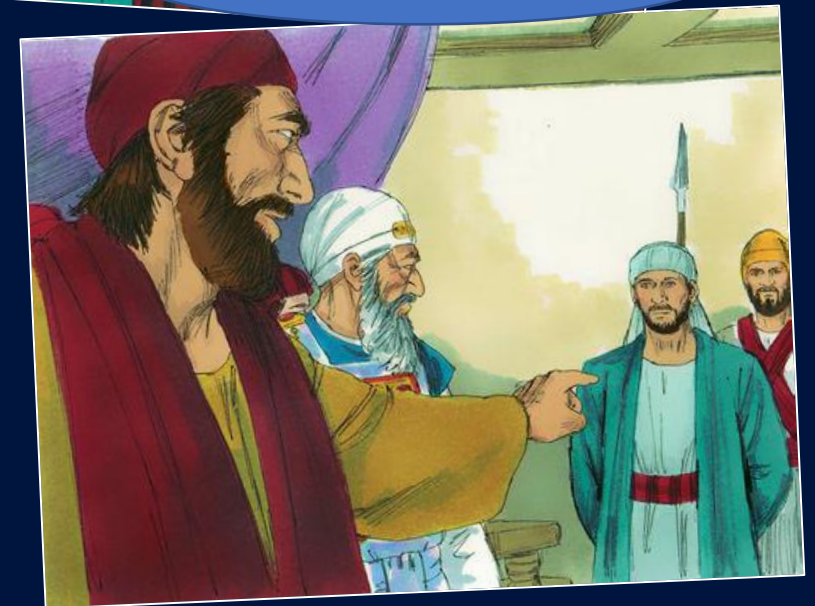
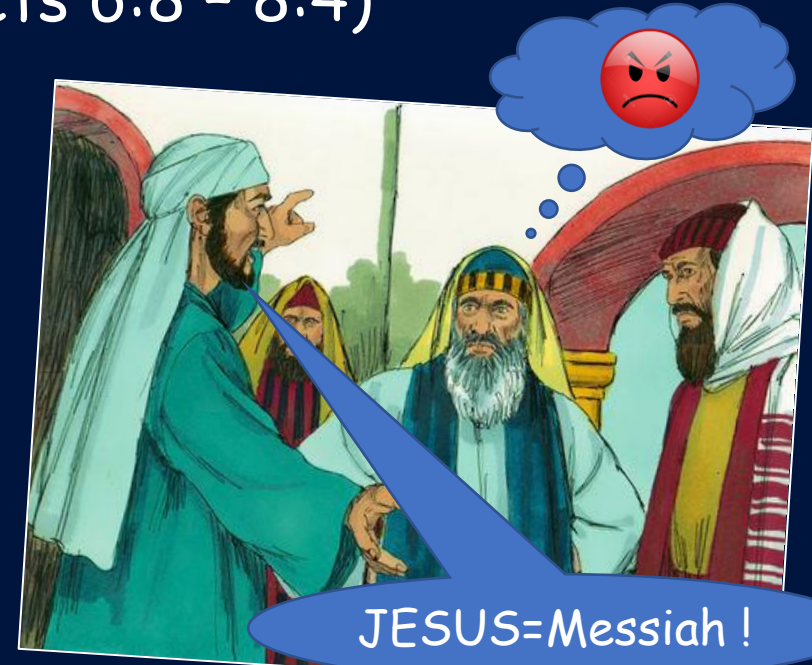


Stephen (Acts 6:8 - 8:4)

But some Jews were against Stephen... They all came and argued with him. But the Spirit was helping him to speak with wisdom. His words were so strong that they could not argue with him. So they paid some men to say, "We heard him say things against Moses and against God!"

This upset everyone, so they grabbed Stephen and brought him to the Jewish leaders. They brought in some men to tell lies about him.

They said, "This man is always saying things against this holy place (the Temple) and the law of Moses. We heard him say that Jesus from Nazareth will destroy this place. He also said that Jesus will change the things that Moses told us to do."



All the people in the meeting were watching Stephen closely. **His face looked like the face of an angel !**

Then Stephen told the people how God saved the Jewish people, from Abraham to Joseph in Egypt to Moses. He told them these 3 truths:

1. God is the Creator and Heaven is His throne. He does not live in houses like the Temple.
2. Their ancestors disobeyed Moses and killed many prophets.
3. They even killed Jesus, the Righteous One sent by God.





I see heaven open!

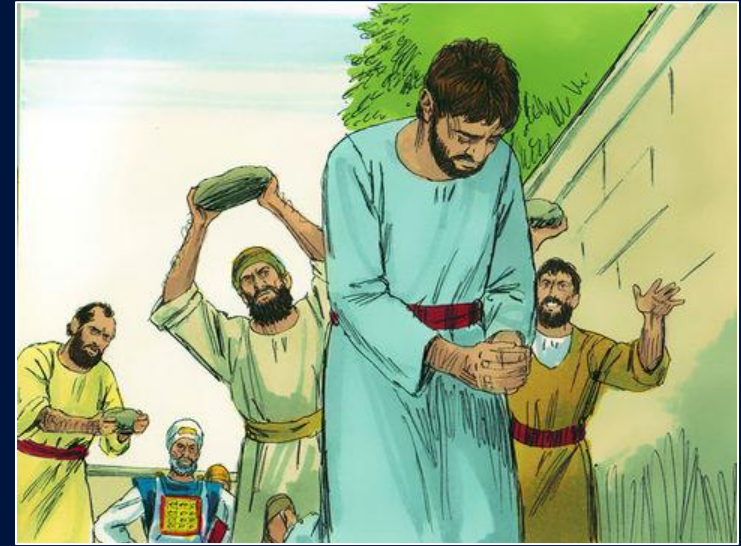


When the Jewish leaders heard Stephen saying all these things, they became very angry. They were so mad that they were grinding their teeth at Stephen.

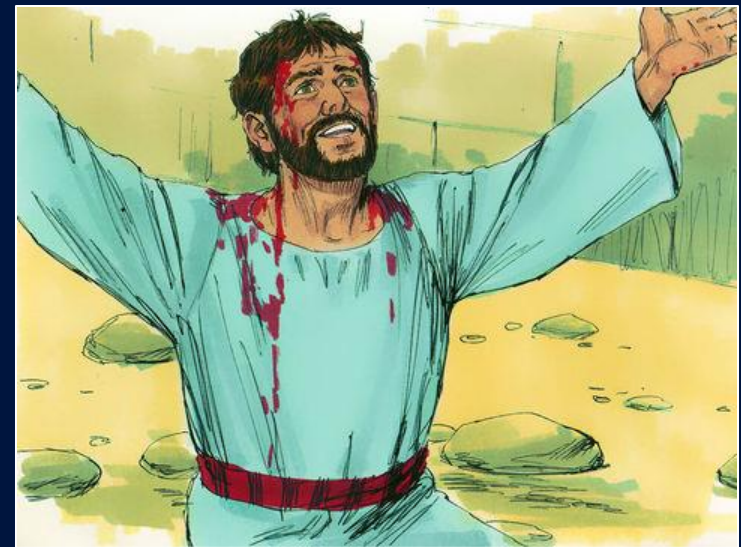
But Stephen was **full of the Holy Spirit**. He looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God. **He saw Jesus standing at God's right side.**

He said, "Look! I see heaven open. And I see the Son of Man standing at God's right side!"

Then they all shouted loudly. They covered their ears with their hands and all ran at Stephen. They took him out of the city and threw stones at him until he was dead. The men who told lies against Stephen left their coats with a young man named Saul.



While they were throwing stones, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" He fell on his knees and cried in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" After Stephen said this, he died.



Saul agreed that the killing of Stephen was a good thing.



Copyright Sweet Publishing / FreeBibleimages.org

On that day people started to hurt the church in Jerusalem.

Saul went from house to house. He dragged out men and women and put them in jail. All the believers, except the apostles, went to different places in Judea and Samaria. **And everywhere the believers went, they told people the Good News.**

Family Discussion

1. How is today's story about Stephen different from what we have read so far in Acts?
2. What kind of a person was Stephen? (you may want to read the story once again)
3. The people brought in liars to accuse Stephen. Did they obey God? Why or why not? (Hint: what does the 9th Commandment say?)
4. Was Stephen afraid of telling the truth when facing pressure? Why or why not?
5. Did Stephen know something really bad would happen to him if he told the truth? Why then did he choose to tell the truth?
6. Have you ever been in a situation where you knew that if you told the truth, something bad would happen to you? What did you do?
7. Stephen saw heaven open and Jesus standing at God's right side. Why is Jesus standing and not sitting which is more often described in the Bible?

Family Discussion

8. While they were throwing stones, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" then cried in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!"
- ❑ Who else said similar words? (Hint: Father, unto your hand I commit my spirit...Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing)
 - ❑ Would you pray for those who hurt you? Have you ever done so?

9. After Stephen's death, Christians were persecuted. Many left Jerusalem and went to different places in Judea and Samaria (see map). What did they do with their faith?
10. Sometimes bad things happen. The Church suffered (bad thing) but the Good News spread so more people could be saved (good thing). Share with each other an experience where something bad happened but good resulted in the end.



Family Prayer Time

1. Thank God for His Word and help so we may learn from Him.
2. Ask your children to pray for what they have learned just now.
3. Ask your family how you can pray for them specifically.

Unless A Seed 一粒麥子

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2S7ZTHHoIHs&app=desktop>

