

May 10 – Stephen, Jesus is the Way, Mother’s Day

Church Service Bible Passages: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 7:51-60; [Psalm 146](#); 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Stephen: A Servant Speaks

Bible Passage: Acts 6 – 7

Resources included in this PDF: Lesson 10 Opening, Lesson 10 Handout (fill in the blanks), Lesson 10 Find & Color

Scripture Snapshot

The Twelve select Stephen as one of the first seven deacons in the Early Church. Synagogue leaders twist Stephen’s words, falsely accusing him of blasphemy. Stephen’s testimony before the high priest recalls Israel’s rejection of God’s promise and their rejection of Jesus, the promised Savior. When Stephen says he sees a vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God, the enraged officials cast Stephen out of the city and stone him.

Discussion Points

These two chapters of Acts are full of action. First, Stephen is chosen for the important position of deacon. He goes around doing great wonders among the people. Then, he is seized by the Jewish leaders who were his enemies, and those enemies spread lies about him. Stephen is taken to the council (a court-type setting); the same council that convicted Jesus. Stephen stands up and gives a big speech, his face glowing like an angel’s, basically recounting all of Old Testament history. The council grinds their teeth at him and the angry mob stones Stephen to death. Stephen gazes up and sees heaven while he is dying (Wow! Jesus is welcoming him into heaven!), and he asks the Lord to forgive his murderers.

How did Stephen share his faith? Describe a time you told someone about Jesus even though it was difficult. How did the Holy Spirit help you during that time?

Sometimes we get angry at people, and they get angry at us. How can we show God’s love and forgiveness, even when we are very hurt or angry?

Christians are still killed today for confessing their faith all over the world. They are called martyrs. With your family, pray for Christians who are persecuted and face danger because of their faith in Jesus.

What did Stephen do when people were mean to him? What does Jesus help us do? (Forgive one another). In the Lord’s Prayer, we say, “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.” When we say, “Forgive our sins,” we think about Jesus dying on the cross to forgive us. When we say the second part, we think about the people who have hurt us and we ask God to forgive them and help us forgive them, too.

Bible Verse for this Lesson

Be kind to one another. Ephesians 4:32

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us live as His children. The Holy Spirit works through God’s Word. He helps us to be kind and show love for others. He helps us tell them about our best friend, Jesus.

Prayers

Dear Jesus, You have done so much for us. Help us do something for You too, by doing kind things for others. Help us grow strong in faith. Please give us willing hearts to serve and tell others about You. Amen.

Dear Jesus, thank You for sending Your servant Stephen. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to help all the people throughout history and today who speak Your Word even though people hate them for it. Help us to have the courage to share Your Word with others, especially when people don’t like us for being Your children. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

Jesus is the Way

Bible Passage: John 14:1-14

[Lutheran Hour Devotion](#)

[Bible Lesson for Kids](#)

[Children's Sermon](#)

[Craft Ideas](#)

Mother's Day

Bible Verses

Exodus 20:12

Proverbs 31:25-31

1 Samuel 2:1-10 (Hannah's Song)

Luke 1: 46-55 (Mary's Song)

[Douglas Talks](#) – Mother's Day Lesson

[Skit Guys Mother's Day Videos](#)

[Mother's Day Sunday School Lesson](#)

Song: ["Honor Christian Mothers"](#) to the tune of "Onward, Christian Soldiers"

[Printable Mother's Day cards to color from CPH](#)

LESSON 10 OPENING

A SERVANT SPEAKS: STEPHEN

Hold up stone. What is this? *Allow children to answer while tossing the stone from hand to hand.* You are exactly right: this is a stone. We might find stones such as this out in a field when the earth is being tilled. Perhaps we have seen them on a gravel road forming the surface upon which the car is driven. Maybe they have been used as a part of the landscaping around our home or another building. Stones such as this one (*still tossing hand to hand*) are found in many places.

We know that we do not ever take a stone such as this and throw it at another person. Why do we not do that? *Allow for answers.* Correct: we could hurt someone very badly. It certainly would not be a polite thing to do, either. Unfortunately, there are people who persecute others. To persecute someone is to hurt or harm them in some way, usually because of something they happen to believe. Sometimes those who persecute others do this with stones. They persecute by stoning the person; that is, by throwing stones at them. This can seriously hurt the person or even cause them to die.

In today's Bible lesson, we will learn about a man named Stephen. We will learn who He was and about many of the things that he said and did. As we learn about him, consider why some people may not have liked him very much. You might think about whether some would want to persecute him. Near the end of the lesson, we will learn about what happened to Stephen. Pay close attention to how Stephen was treated and how he responded. See if you can tell if Jesus was with Stephen during that time.

Persecuting and stoning (*tossing stone hand to hand*) are terrible for those who suffer them. Nevertheless, Jesus, who died for the forgiveness of our sins, promises to be with us in all things. He even promises to be with us when we are persecuted for believing in Him. In Him is our joy in all things.

Pray: Lord Jesus, preserve us from all harm and danger. Keep us safe in You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

Acts 6–7

BIBLE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit helps us serve God.

FAITH FOCUS

The Third Article, Part 2

LAW & GOSPEL

We don't want to hear about our sin, selfishness, or unbelief.

Through God's Word, we hear that we are forgiven, and the Spirit moves us to believe and serve others.

BIBLE VERSE

Be kind to one another.
Ephesians 4:32

VISUAL HELPS

Stone or rock

A SERVANT SPEAKS—STEPHEN

Unit 3, Lesson 10

Stephen Serves God

Directions: The Holy Spirit helped Stephen to boldly speak the truth of God’s Word as he served God. Use the words found in the Word Boxes below to complete the Bible account of Stephen’s service.

Stephen was full of grace and _____. He did great _____ and signs among the people. Some people in the synagogue where Stephen preached _____ with him. These people did not _____ the _____ the Holy Spirit gave Stephen. So they stirred up the officials in the _____ and brought Stephen before them. _____ witnesses told lies about Stephen. As Stephen sat there, those who saw him saw his face was like that of an _____.

WORD BOX

temple
False
power
argued
wonders
angel
wisdom
understand

When Stephen was allowed to speak, he first told those in the temple the truth about _____. As he continued to speak God’s Word, Stephen also told the truth about Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob’s son _____. Stephen also preached about Moses and about how the people _____ him and all the other prophets _____ sent to them. Then Stephen told the people that they were the ones who betrayed and murdered _____.

WORD BOX

persecuted
Abraham
God
Joseph
Jesus

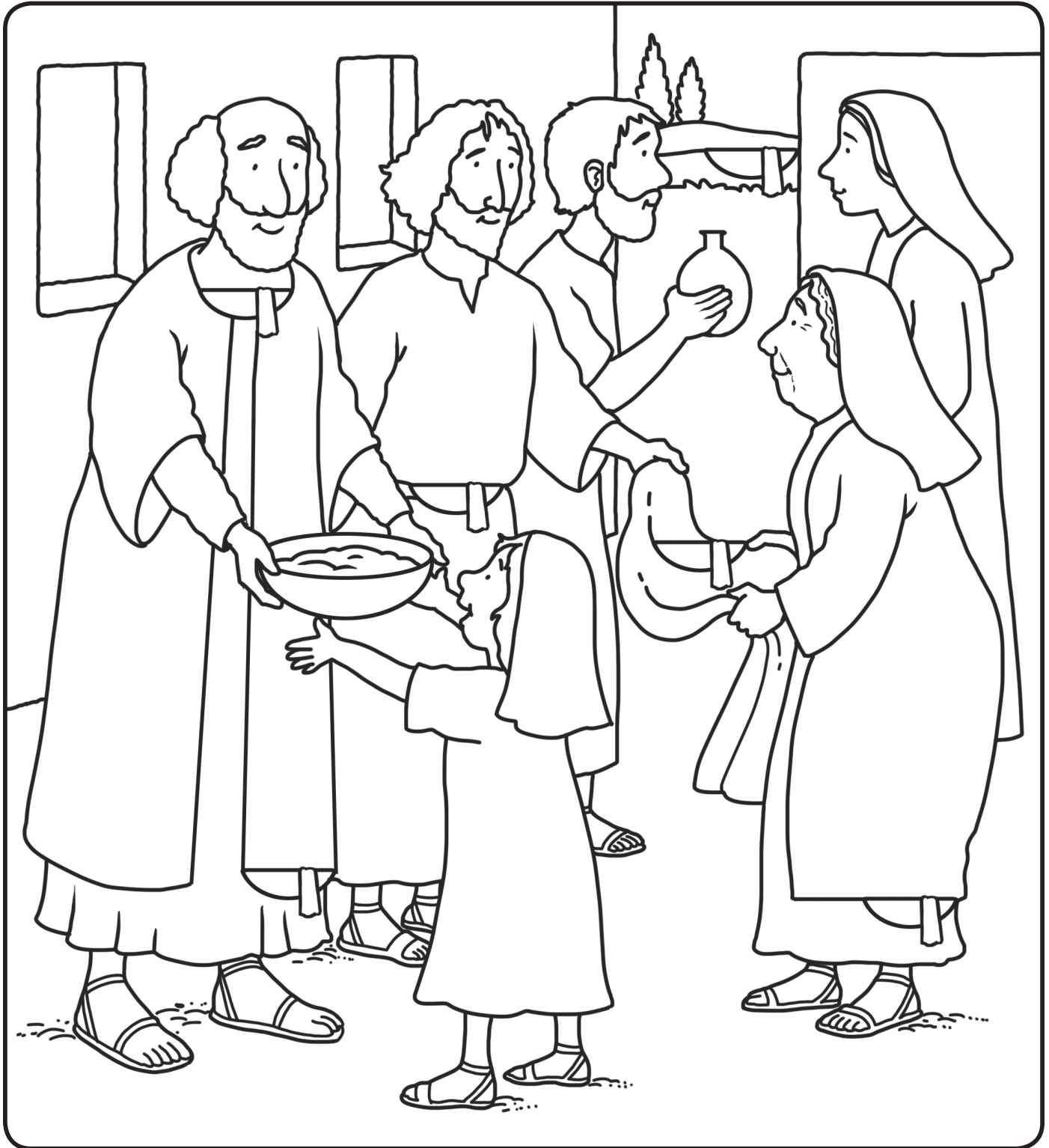
When the people in the temple heard what Stephen said, they became very _____. But Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into _____ and saw God’s _____. In his vision, Stephen saw Jesus as He stood at God’s _____ hand. When Stephen told the people what he saw, the people rushed at him, cast him out of the _____, and _____ him. A young man named _____ saw all that was going on. As Stephen died, he asked Jesus to receive his spirit. Stephen also asked Jesus to _____ the sin of the people.

WORD BOX

glory
Saul
forgive
right
angry
city
heaven
stoned

“Be kind to one another” (Ephesians 4:32). How did Stephen show kindness to those who hated him?

How are we able to show kindness to others, even those who may not like us?



 Find & Color

A bowl with a towel is a symbol for service. Find six in the picture. Stephen was chosen to serve God by helping poor people. I wonder . . . how can you show love for others?



Serve the LORD with gladness!

Psalms 100:2