

## Acts 7 Children's lesson

Here is the church. Here is the steeple. Open the doors and see all the people! (teach it)

But... is this really the church? No... (show fingers) the people are the church!

Today's true Bible story is about how God's Holy Spirit helped someone in the church believe in Jesus! His name was Stephen.

But before I tell you about him, let's remember how our whole bodies listen to God's true Bible stories. What do we do with our feet now? Our hands? Our mouths? And our ears and hearts? Good! Now our whole bodies are ready.

Just like Jesus promised before he went up to heaven, God's Holy Spirit filled Stephen with love and wisdom. So he was put in charge of feeding people in the church. God's Holy Spirit also did mighty miracles through Stephen, just like Jesus said it would! Stephen loved feeding people and telling them about Jesus.

But some leaders didn't want people to believe in Jesus, so they argued with Stephen and told everyone that he wasn't obeying God! But God's Holy Spirit filled Stephen with courage, so that he could continue helping people believe in Jesus.

But the angry men didn't like his courage, so they kept arguing with him, getting so so mad that they shouted at him with loud voices and started throwing big heavy rocks at him! If I were Stephen I think I would have felt mad and scared. But God's Holy Spirit filled Stephen and helped him believe Jesus' promise that he would always be with them, even when they felt scared.

And you'll never guess what else happened that day. God didn't rescue him from the angry men, but when Stephen looked up into the sky, he saw the heavens open and Jesus standing there in glory! Seeing Jesus in glory means seeing him as he truly is, with his face shining like the sun.

After Stephen saw Jesus in his glory, I don't think he was tempted to feel mad or scared any more. Aren't you so thankful that God always helps us believe in Jesus?!

### Questions

- Who filled Stephen's heart with love and wisdom?
- Who filled Stephen with courage to tell people about Jesus?
- In last week's story, who can remember how God helped Peter and John when they were in the dark prison?
- Did God send an angel to rescue Stephen, in today's story?
- Well, if God didn't send an angel to rescue Stephen, how **did** he help him?

Bible verse- Stephen looked up to heaven and saw Jesus.

Let's thank God for helping us believe in Jesus like Stephen, even when we're scared!