

Unit 29 • Session 2
Stephen's Sermon

Bible Passage: Acts 6–7

Story Point: The church serves God.

Key Passage: Romans 12:5

Christ connection: We can remember that Jesus suffered for us.

Bible Story for Toddlers

Stephen loved Jesus, and the Holy Spirit was with him. Some men did not like Stephen, and they lied to get him in trouble. They said Stephen was saying untrue words about God. Stephen stood in front of the people and told them about Jesus! Stephen said the stories about Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and David told about Jesus. He said that Jesus is the Messiah, and the people were wrong to kill Him on the cross. The people were angry and screamed at him, but Stephen looked up into the sky and saw Jesus. The people threw stones at Stephen. Stephen said, "Jesus, forgive them!"

Gospel Gems

God was with Stephen.

Stephen told about God's plan to send Jesus.

Stephen said that Jesus is the Messiah.

Key Passage

We ... are one body in Christ. Romans 12:5 (CSB)

TODDLERS ACTIVITIES

Circle time (5 minutes)

Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key, passage. Open your Bible to Acts 6–7. Tell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the toddlers.

Paint stones

Tape a plastic tablecloth to the table. Provide smocks or bibs to protect clothing and a smooth stone to each child. Help toddlers use foam brushes to paint the stones. Set the stones aside to dry. Wipe hands immediately. Tell the Bible story.

Say • **The church serves God.** God was with Stephen. Even though people were unkind to him, Stephen told about God's plan to send Jesus.

March and chant

Invite the children to line up behind you as you march around the room, chanting, "Have no fear! Who is always near?" Encourage children to shout, "God!" Play several times, varying the volume your voice. Tell the Bible story.

Say • Even when the people were angry, God was with Stephen. Stephen told the people about God's plan to send Jesus. **The church serves God.** When we suffer, we can remember that Jesus suffered for us.

Read books about feelings

Provide age-appropriate books that explore feelings. Read the books to toddlers, talking about the feelings portrayed. Talk about the Bible story.

Say • The people were angry when Stephen said that Jesus is the Messiah. They did not want to believe the truth about Jesus. Stephen might have been afraid, but God was with him. **The church serves God.**

Look at clouds

If weather permits, take the toddlers outside in a stroller to look at the clouds. You may also hang cloud-shaped cutouts from the ceiling. Retell the Bible story.

Say • God was with Stephen, even when the people tried to hurt him. Stephen looked into the sky and saw Jesus in heaven! We can remember that Jesus suffered for us to save us from our sin. **The church serves God.**

Make play dough people

Provide play dough and people-shaped cookie cutters for toddlers to use. Retell the Bible story as they play.

Say • **The church serves God.** Stephen was a church helper. God was with Stephen. Some people did not like Stephen, and they said untrue words about him. Stephen did not get mad or say unkind words. Stephen told about God's plan to send Jesus. Stephen suffered to tell the truth about Jesus. We can remember that Jesus suffered for us.

Look at Bibles

Use colorful strips of construction paper to mark Bible stories with Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, and Jesus. Invite toddlers to take turns opening the Bible to the passages. Mention that each person said God would send a Rescuer, Jesus!

Say • Using these Bible stories, Stephen told about God's plan to send Jesus. **The church serves God** even when it is hard. We can remember that Jesus suffered for us.

Sing about the church

Invite toddlers to stand in a circle and hold hands. Walk slowly in a circle and sing to the tune of "Ring Around the Rosy" : "God is always with me. / He will never leave me. / The church serves, the church serves, the church serves God!" Sit down.

Say • **The church serves God.** We remember that Jesus suffered for us.