Preschool–Grade 6

Stephen

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: I can stand strong for Jesus, and I can forgive.
Bible passage: Acts 6–7. Read Acts 6:1–15 and 7:54–60 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Stephen, full of faith and power" *Acts 6:8 (KJV).*
You need: a Bible, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Acts 6.

1. Opening game: Strong Feet (5 minutes)

Kids stand with their feet planted like strong trees. Say, "The wind is blowing!" and they sway their arms but keep their feet still. Say, "Big wind!" and they sway more. "Stop!" and they freeze. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a man who stood strong for Jesus."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Acts 6. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Stephen loved Jesus. He helped take care of people (Acts 6:1–5). *(Hug yourself.)*
Stephen was full of faith and power (6:8). *(Show strong arms.)*
God did great wonders through Stephen (6:8). *(Open your hands wide: wow!)*
Say it with me: "Stephen was full of faith!"
Some men did not like Stephen. They told lies about him (6:11, 6:13). *(Shake your head no.)*
They took him to the leaders (6:12). *(Walk in place.)*
Stephen's face looked like an angel's face (6:15). *(Make a calm, happy face.)*
Stephen looked up to heaven (7:55). *(Look up and point up.)*
He said, "I see the heavens opened" (7:56). *(Open your arms up high.)*
The men were very angry. They hurt Stephen (7:54, 7:58). *(Make a sad face.)*
Stephen kneeled down and prayed for them (7:60). *(Kneel and fold your hands.)*
He prayed, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." That means, "Lord, please forgive them."
Say it with me: "Lord, please forgive them!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What was Stephen full of? *(Faith and power, Acts 6:8)*
2. Where did Stephen look? *(Up into heaven, 7:55)*
3. What did Stephen pray for the men? *(That the Lord would not hold their sin against them, 7:60)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God's Word says, 'Stephen, full of faith and power.'" Teach the motions: put your hands on your heart for "faith," then make strong arms for "power." Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Acts 6:8" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. Stephen was full of the Holy Ghost (Acts 7:55). When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Heaven Opened (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw clouds with bright yellow light in the middle, for "I see the heavens opened" (Acts 7:56). While they color, ask: "Who was full of faith and power? What did Stephen pray?" Kids who finish early can play Strong Feet again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Dear God, help me stand strong for Jesus.
Help me forgive like Stephen. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child do the motions. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

Left out on purpose: this preschool version does not tell how Stephen died. If a child asks what happened to Stephen, answer simply: "The angry men threw stones at him, and Stephen died. Before he died, he asked the Lord Jesus to receive his spirit (Acts 7:59), and now he is with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8)."

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