

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K&K)

Lesson #88

DATE:

SUBJECT: Stephen is stoned to death—the first Christian to die for the Lord Jesus

SCRIPTURE: Acts 6 and 7

AIM: To show the children, by Stephen's example, that they should always tell people about God's word and the Lord Jesus.

MEMORY VERSES:

Acts 7:55 "... he looked intently into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."

CONTENT: Not too long after the Lord Jesus went back to His Father in heaven, many of the Lord's followers were suffering much because they told everyone about Jesus. One such man was Stephen. Stephen loved to tell people how the Lord died for them and how He rose from the dead. But there were many bad people, like those who killed the Lord, who did not want to hear it.

The Bible, God's word, tells us that Stephen was a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. Through Stephen and many others the word of God kept spreading and many, many more people in Jerusalem believed in the Lord Jesus. Stephen was also full of power and did wonders among the people.

Some people did not like Stephen because he spoke the truth about Jesus. They argued with him, but their arguing was unable to win over Stephen because God's powerful Spirit was speaking great wisdom through Stephen.

The people who did not like Stephen convinced other people to lie about Stephen and what he really said. Stephen was very courageous and continued to speak God's word. They dragged Stephen away to be before the Jewish leaders. Stephen still spoke about God's word and his face was like the face of an angel.

Stephen was wonderful. He spoke to them from God's word and told them about the great people and events in the Bible. He told them the same stories that you heard in children's meeting. He told them about Abraham, Moses and David. They got angry with Stephen when he told them that they did not listen to God. When he told them the truth about the Lord Jesus they became even more furious with Stephen. Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit and looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God and the Lord Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He told this evil-minded people, "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man (Jesus) standing at the right hand of God." Hearing the truth, the people cried out with a loud voice, covered their ears and all rushed upon Stephen. They drove him out of the city and killed him by throwing stones at him. As Stephen was being stoned, he called upon the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees forgave the people and fell asleep (he died). He went to be with His Lord Jesus.

APPLICATION:

We can be as brave as Stephen to speak out for the Lord Jesus. We can tell people that we go to the church on Sunday with our parents and enjoy the children's meeting. Jesus loves us all. He wants His people to talk to others about Him, and we will get encouragement like Stephen who saw the Lord in the heaven.