



## LESSON SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

God wants us to do the right thing, even when no one else does.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will ask God to help them make a smart choice this week.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Acts 6:8-15, 7:54-60, Stephen

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIRV)*

**SUMMARY:**

Stephen loved Jesus and loved people; his love never wavered, even when the people got angry and killed him. Kids will learn that members of the Jesus League can persevere and do the right thing even when people don't treat us the same way.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Help us to make the right choice, no matter what.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



## MEMORY VERSE

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)*

*When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIRV)*

### **LARGE GROUP:**

Bring as many adult leaders up on stage as possible. Let the adults go first, reciting the memory verse from memory, and then let the kids go. Who does the best job?

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Have the kids practice saying their memory verse, and then see who can say it backwards.



## SKIT

### STEPHEN THE COMMITTED

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

None

#### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2M, 1F

#### CHARACTERS:

Debbie - A super hero recruiter

Dougie - A new recruit

Stephen - A follower of Jesus

*Debbie and Dougie enter.*

DEBBIE: You know, Dougie, the Jesus League has won a lot of victories over the years. Every time we win someone over to the Jesus League, we consider it a victory. But we've had some losses too. Sometimes Jesus asks his people to sacrifice so that we can save others. That means sometimes it takes real commitment to follow Jesus.

DOUGIE: Wow. What kind of commitment do you mean?

DEBBIE: I think our next League member can tell you better than I can.

*Stephen enters.*

STEPHEN: Hello, Debbie.

DEBBIE: Hi, Stephen. I was just about to introduce you to our newest member, Dougie.

STEPHEN: Hi, Dougie. I'm Stephen.

DOUGIE: Nice to meet you. Hmm, Stephen, Stephen. Forgive me, but I don't remember reading about you. You weren't a disciple, were you?

STEPHEN: No I wasn't. But I loved Jesus as much as any of them.

# SKIT

DEBBIE: Stephen was one of the early church members. He was appointed by the church to help some of the people who needed it most. But before he could do the work the church gave him to do, he was arrested.

DOUGIE: Arrested? What for?

STEPHEN: For believing in Jesus.

DOUGIE: They arrested people for that??

STEPHEN: Yes they did, and I was one of the first.

DOUGIE: What did they do?

STEPHEN: They put me on trial, of course. They thought they could intimidate me into giving up my belief in Jesus, but instead, I used it as a chance to share Jesus with them. All the yelling, the threats, the intimidation couldn't stop me from believing in the one who saved me. I was going to follow Jesus no matter what!

DOUGIE: And they let you go?

DEBBIE: No. Stephen was killed for his faith.

DOUGIE: He was??

DEBBIE: But even as he died, Stephen remained committed. He prayed for the people who threw rocks at him. He was committed to the end.

DOUGIE: Goodness. I didn't think being in the Jesus League could be that dangerous.

DEBBIE: Usually, it's not, but we all have times when peer pressure and going with the crowd make it hard to stay true to our faith. God can give us the strength to stay committed, no matter what, and he can make us witnesses just like he did Stephen.

DOUGIE: Stephen, I don't know if I can be as committed as you, but I want to try. If you can do it, then I want to do it.

STEPHEN: That's all God asks, Dougie, a willing heart that longs to stay true to Jesus.

DEBBIE: You're well on your way to becoming a member of the League, Dougie.



## OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

A plate of ham and eggs

Today we're talking about commitment. If you want to know what commitment is, look no further than your breakfast plate. Have you ever thought about what it took to make your breakfast in the morning? Take this plate of ham and eggs. Two animals were involved making this breakfast. Can you name them?

A chicken laid the egg, but the ham came from a pig. As a matter of fact, the ham IS the pig. The chicken was involved in making your breakfast because he laid the egg. The pig gave his life for your breakfast. The pig was fully committed!

Yes, I know the pig didn't choose to die for breakfast, but I think you get the point. Being committed means being all-in. It means we will choose Jesus no matter what.

It isn't always easy to stay committed to Jesus. When people make fun of us for our faith, we don't feel like loving them either. But with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can persevere and keep our commitment to loving God and loving Jesus.

Be all-in for Jesus. Ask Jesus to give you a heart that is fully committed!



# LARGE GROUP GAME

## EAT IT TO WIN IT

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Three jars of baby food

Three prizes

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose one player for this game. The player can win one of three prizes in this game - one very cheap, one okay prize, and one super cool prize. In order to win the prize, the player has to eat one spoonful from one of three jars of baby food. After you show off the three prizes, match up the baby foods with the prizes. The best tasting baby food goes with the worst prize, and the worst food goes with the best prize.

Have the player choose their baby food. If they stay committed and eat the baby food, they get the prize. If they quit, game over.

### VARIATION:

Instead of eating baby food, you could require the player to hold a warhead or other sour candy in their mouth for 30-60 seconds.

### WHAT'S THE POINT?

God wants us to be fully committed to Jesus.



# LARGE GROUP LESSON

**BOTTOM LINE:**

God wants us to do the right thing, even when no one else does.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will ask God to help them make a smart choice this week.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Acts 6:8-15, 7:54-60, Stephen

**INTRO:**

One of the noblest parts of being a super hero, be it in the Justice League or any other super hero group, is their commitment. Super heroes are committed to fighting crime, to saving the city, and doing the right thing. They do this 24/7, with very little down time and no days off. They do it because they know that if no one else is willing to do it, the world could be in trouble.

Batman never gets a night off. Night is when he works. He's always on the rooftops, searching and looking for trouble. He is ready to help on a moment's notice, and as soon as he's saved one innocent citizen from crime, he's off to help another.

Superman and Spider-Man are so committed, they never go anywhere without their super hero gear. Clark Kent wears the red and blue Superman costume underneath his suit. Peter Parker wears the red and blue Spider-Man suit underneath his school clothes. It means neither of them can ever wear short sleeves or shorts, not even in the summer. It's a sacrifice they make because they are committed to the cause.

Super heroes never quit. They never surrender. They never back down. Super heroes are committed to saving the world by defeating one super-villain at a time.

Commitment is an important part of being in the Jesus League as well. As Christians we don't have to face enemies like our favorite super heroes, but we do have our challenges. There are times when our commitment is put to the test. People may mistreat us and put us down. They can be cruel and mean because of our faith or any number of reasons. In times like that it is important to rely on God's Holy Spirit to stay committed to loving God and loving others, just like today's hero of the faith Stephen.

**READ ACTS 6:8-15, 7:54-60**

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

## MAIN POINT:

Stephen was one of the early church followers. He was well known for being a man of great faith and true commitment to Christ. Just before the story in today's scripture, the church leaders chose Stephen and six other men to take charge of caring for some of the poorest believers in the church. Luke, the author of Acts, tells us he was full of the Holy Spirit.

There were many enemies of the faith during that time, and they were becoming increasingly hostile towards Christians. Stephen was one of the first Christians to face persecution. He was put on trial, and false witnesses said that he had spoken against the name of God.

Stephen was not afraid of their false accusations or even the threat of death. In the verses between these two passages, Stephen gave one of the greatest sermons in the Bible. He told everyone that he loved Jesus. He explained to them why he believed Jesus was the Messiah. He refused to cave in and loved his enemies to the end!

Stephen was committed to Jesus, even unto death. He sets a tall example for all of us, kids and grown ups to follow. Are you ready to be as committed as Stephen?

## DRIVE IT HOME:

It isn't easy to stay as loving and forgiving as Stephen did. People can make it really hard to love them! We've all had run ins with bullies, people who push us around, call us names, and pick on us for various reasons. Sometimes people make fun of you because of your faith. Sometimes they do it because they think you're too different. How do you keep on loving people when people mistreat you?

Stephen relied on the Holy Spirit for his strength. Luke tells us that when Stephen spoke, it was the Holy Spirit giving him the words to say. If we rely on God, if we keep our commitment to God, we will be able to stay committed to loving others, even when they mistreat us.

Sometimes we get mistreated because we won't follow the crowd. It would be easy to give in and do the wrong thing so we can fit in with everyone else, but God wants us to stand strong in the face of that kind of temptation. God doesn't want us to fit in. He wants us to stand out. God can give you the wisdom to do the right thing, and the commitment to love others when they choose to do wrong. God can use you to be a witness for Jesus.

Commitment isn't easy. We have to pray daily for the strength and courage to do the right thing and to follow Jesus. God will help us. He will show us the right thing to do. He will give us the words to speak when needed. He will make us a witness to others. He will give you the same love for others that he has.



# LARGE GROUP LESSON

Ask God to give you a fully committed heart, and God will make you a true hero of the faith.

**CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Help us to make the right choice, no matter what.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER:

If you needed a super hero to save you, which one would you want it to be?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIRV)**

Have the kids practice saying their memory verse, and then see who can say it backwards.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Toss a balloon around the circle and see how long you can keep it afloat using your hands to bat it in the air. Then add a second, then add a third. It takes commitment and teamwork to keep them all afloat!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Read Acts 6:8-15, 7:54-60**

Who was Stephen?

Why was Stephen arrested?

What did the people want Stephen to do?

Why didn't Stephen give up on his commitment to Jesus?

How does staying committed to Jesus help us make the right choices?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Give us the strength and wisdom to stay committed to you.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER:

If you needed a super hero to save you, which one would you want it to be?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NirV)**

Have the kids practice saying their memory verse, and then see who can say it backwards.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Toss a balloon around the circle and see how long you can keep it afloat using your hands to bat it in the air. Then add a second, then add a third. It takes commitment and teamwork to keep them all afloat!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Read Acts 6:8-15, 7:54-60**

Why was Stephen arrested?

Why didn't Stephen give up on his commitment to Jesus?

What kinds of people or situations have you faced that tested your commitment to Jesus?

Is there a situation going on in your life right now where you are struggling to stay committed to making the right choice?

How can we help each other to keep our commitment to Jesus?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Give us the strength and wisdom to stay committed to you.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



# POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

## FILL IN THE BLANK

\_\_\_\_\_ was a leader of the early church.

STEPHEN

When Stephen spoke, the \_\_\_\_\_ gave him the words to say.

HOLY SPIRIT

When the people arrested Stephen and put him on trial, they saw he had a face like an

\_\_\_\_\_.

ANGEL

The people killed Stephen by \_\_\_\_\_ at him.

THROWING STONES

Stephen remained \_\_\_\_\_ to loving God and loving others.

COMMITTED



# MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

## Jesus League Lesson 7

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: STEPHEN THE COMMITTED



#### IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Stephen loved Jesus and loved people; his love never wavered, even when the people got angry and killed him. Kids will learn that members of the Jesus League can persevere and do the right thing even when people don't treat us the same way. Acts 6:8-15, 7:54-60, Stephen



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Share with your kids a time you struggled to love someone who was mean to you. How did you handle the situation? How could you have handled it differently, if it didn't go so well?



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who was Stephen?
- Why did the religious leaders put Stephen on trial?
- How did Stephen stay committed to Jesus?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

*When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIRV)*



#### PARENT TIME:

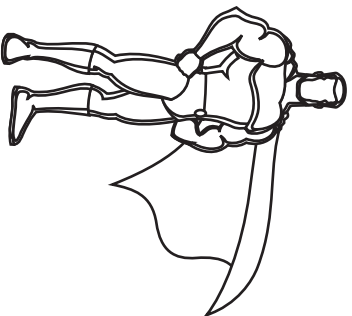
What you need to know:

Pray for your kids to have a heart that is committed to loving others. Pray that God will help you to love others as well. If there are any co-workers you are struggling with, pray especially for them this week so God can make you a witness to them.

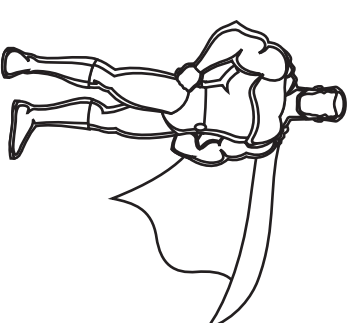


## CRAFT ACTIVITY

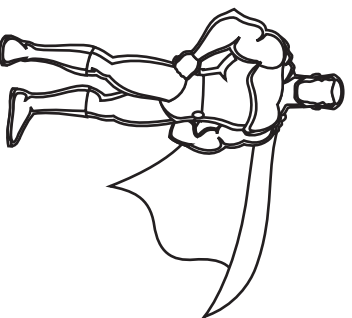
Have the kids design a super hero logo for Stephen the Committed using paper, scissors, and crayons.



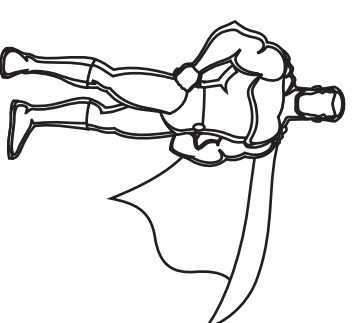
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