



3RD - 5TH

31-3
Stephen Was
Arrested



CONNECT TIME

Greet kids by name and play table games as kids arrive. Be sure to welcome any new families. Ask kids: **How would you respond if people said untrue things about you? Why would you respond that way?**



IS IT TRUE?

Start by 9:20/10:45

Form kids into two teams and provide each team with a piece of paper and a marker. Ask teams to write the word 'True' on one side of the paper and the word 'False' on the other. Tell teams to determine if a statement you say is true or false and hold up the paper to indicate their answer. Award a point for every correct answer. Consider using the following examples or choose your own:

- Jacob led God's people out of slavery in Egypt. (false)
- David was the first king of Israel. (false)
- God made a covenant with Abraham that would bless all nations. (true)
- The Israelites worshiped a golden calf at Mount Sinai. (true)

In our story today, we will learn how the Jewish leaders spoke lies against Stephen. But we will also learn how Stephen spoke what is true from God's Word as he shared God's plan to send Jesus into the world to save sinners.

START BY
9:30/10:55

REVIEW **3** BE, LISTEN, FOLLOW



LARGE GROUP

SMALL GROUP



BIBLE REVIEW

Distribute Bibles and guide kids to open their Bibles to Acts 7.

- Remind kids that the Bible is divided into two large sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Discuss how the Old Testament begins with the creation of the world and tells of God's plan to send Jesus into the world through the nation of Israel. Remind kids that Stephen's sermon included stories from the Old Testament.
- Choose a volunteer to read aloud Acts 7:4-6.

Stephen boldly spoke about the condition of the religious leaders' hearts. He said they resisted the Holy Spirit and chose to ignore the truth about Jesus. The Jewish leaders' hearts chose not to listen to God's Word, just as the people of Israel chose not to the prophets who foretold the coming of Jesus.

When we hear the good news about Jesus, we get to choose how we respond. We can choose to trust Jesus and ask Him to forgive us for the wrong things we've done. We can also choose to accept His love and believe that He died so we can live with Him forever.



DISCUSSION

- **Why was Stephen brave when he spoke and even when he died?** Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He wasn't strong on his own, but God gave him power. When we believe in Jesus, the same Holy Spirit that helped Stephen lives in us too!(Option: Read Romans 15:13.)
- **How was Stephen able to forgive those who stoned him?** Stephen forgave because God's Spirit was working in his heart. When we believe in Jesus, He changes us to want to forgive others, just like He has forgiven us. Forgiving isn't always easy, but God helps us do it. (Option: Read Matthew 6:15.)
- **Is Jesus worth following, even if we face hard things? Why?** Jesus is always worth following even if that means we must go through difficulty because of our faith. Jesus gives us life and forgiveness. Even if we lose things or face hard times for following Him, nothing in this world is better than Jesus. He promises us joy with Him forever! (Option: Read Psalm 16:11.)



TIC-TAC-TOE TRIVIA

Form kids into pairs. Distribute a piece of paper to each pair and a pencil to each kid. Direct one kid to draw a tic-tac-toe board on the paper. Challenge the kids to listen carefully to questions you ask from today's story such as "Who rescued God's people from Pharaoh?" "Who was stoned to death?" "What's the name of the Jewish court?" and so on. Direct pairs to take turns answering the questions. If a kid answers the question correctly, he gets to mark a X or an O on his board. If he answers incorrectly, he does not get to make a mark on the paper. The first one from each pair to get three in a row wins. If time allows, repeat with the winners from each group until there is one winner overall.

Stephen suffered and died for the name of Jesus. But he died with great hope as he saw Jesus in heaven. We can face suffering in this life because Jesus suffered first. He died and then rose again, and He is waiting for us in heaven.



Key Passage: *But he was wounded for the wrong things we did. He was crushed for the evil things we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him. And we are healed because of his wounds. Isaiah 53:5*



Big Picture Question: *Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.*



Take prayer requests and allow kids to pray.



Match parent pick-up numbers, with child name tag numbers.
Build relationships with parents, encourage them to take a picture of the parent recap page to go over on the ride home.