



KIDS FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for July 10th - July 16th
Acts In 30 Week 7: Stephen Shares the Gospel in the Face of Opposition

Family Activity: What Part Do You Play?

To show how God’s Word in us can never be taken or destroyed, we’re going to do a short activity. Start by grabbing a large glass cylinder, like a pitcher or even a glass bowl and fill it with water. This glass container will represent “opposition” would could be insecurities we have or even mean comments people have said to us. Next, get a glass cup and and piece of paper. Take turns writing truths about what God thinks of us, or scriptures in the Bible and then write them on the paper. Crumple the paper up into a ball and stuff it into the glass cup (make sure it is snug in the glass). Turn the glass cup upside down and place it in the larger glass cylinder. The air in the glass will keep the paper from getting wet. This shows how the worlds schemes can never touch the truth of the Word of God that on the inside of us. Stephens body may been killed but the Word of God in him could never be touched.

FOCUS: Acts 6:7-15

Stephen Preaches the Gospel

“Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen — who began to argue with Stephen. But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.”

BIG IDEA 1 – We know from our discussion last week that Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit and he was faithful to the assignment God gave him at the food line in Acts 6. We see in chapter 7 that Stephen begins to perform signs and wonders through the Holy Spirit and this brought great “opposition.” Whenever someone would try to debate him as to why Jesus was not the Messiah, the Holy Spirit would give Stephen special words to say that would prove Jesus was the messiah. This made many unbelievers very angry but Stephen always said what God told him to say.

Q1 - Have you ever shared your faith with someone before? If so, how did it go? What do you think is the most effective way to tell someone about Jesus?

FOCUS: Acts 7:51-8:1

Stephen Is Killed

“As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” He fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!” And with that, he died. Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen.”

BIG IDEA 2 – Once the Pharisees and unbelievers had heard enough of what Stephen had to say, they decided to kill him right then and there. Stephen was not afraid and continued to preach the good news about Jesus even though he was in imminent danger. Right before he was killed, Stephen saw Jesus in the sky and he prayed that Jesus would forgive the very people who were, at that very moment, trying to kill him. Stephen was the very first person to ever lose their life for preaching the gospel. Saul (who is later known as Paul the Apostle) was there watching and even approved of the killing of Stephen. God would later use Saul (Paul), who was the very picture of opposition and convert him to be a mighty force in His Church — God can truly use anyone he chooses.

Q2 - Have you ever felt opposition just because you’re a Christian? What can we learn from the way Stephen handled his opposition? How do you know when is a good time to stand firm during opposition like Stephen, and when is a good time to walk away from opposition?

FOCUS: John 12:8-12

Holy Spirit Will Teach You

“For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

BIG IDEA 3 – Jesus told his disciples that the Holy Spirit will teach us what to say when we share the gospel with others. It’s not about how much you know about the Bible, or how well you can speak in front of others. It’s about obeying Jesus when he asks us to speak. The Holy Spirit will speak through us and it will be exactly what the other person needs to hear. It’s up to them whether they *hear* it or not. Sharing the good news about Jesus is all of our responsibility and the Holy Spirit allows everyone to do that when we let him.

Q3 - What are some common reasons it can be hard for us to share the gospel with others? Can anyone share the gospel? Why, or why not?

