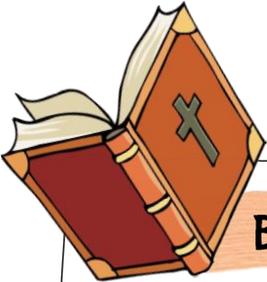


Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Stephen

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 6:8 – 7:60

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Stephen, who lived for you and spoke boldly when asked about his faith.

We remember all those around the world who live in countries where it is not safe to be a Christian. We pray for your protection over their lives but that they would have opportunities to share their faith with others too.

Help us to be bold in sharing our faith and to live for you just as Stephen did.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why did the people in the story tell lies about Stephen?

The elders and teachers of the law were unhappy with Stephen – they could not win arguments against him because the Holy Spirit had given him the ability to speak with great wisdom and confidence.

It probably made the religious leaders feel embarrassed in public when they lost an argument. They did not want more people to join the new church and follow Jesus. They were probably scared of losing their power.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you shared your faith with somebody?

Don’t worry if the person was not interested or rejected you. Just like Stephen people might be negative, angry or confused by the Good News of Jesus. All we can do is keep praying for those who do not yet know Jesus and trust in God’s timing.

Family Activity 1

The High Priest asked Stephen:

“Are these things true?”

and Stephen knew the scripture so well he was able to give examples from throughout the Old Testament of those who brought messages from God but were rejected by God’s people. Play a true or false quiz to see who knows their Bible best.

There is a list of questions on page 3 – (the answers are at the bottom) – play a game of true or false – if you think the answer is true then stand up but if you think it is false sit down.

Who can score the most points?





A verse to remember

1 Peter 3 v 15

“Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have.”

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it. Why not decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week?



Helping Older Children

Sharing our faith with others can be a challenge particularly when the response we receive might be negative. It is however part of the commission we have been given.

Why not help older children to think and talk through how they might share the Good News about Jesus with others?

Colour books are a simple way to share the Gospel, why not make one together. You will need to find or colour paper in the following colours.

Black – represents sin, the mistakes we have all made.

Red – represents the blood of Jesus, shed for us.

White – reminds us that we are washed clean by Jesus’ sacrifice for us.

Yellow/Gold – represents the promise of eternal life and heaven for all those who hear and respond to the Good News.

Green – reminds us that we can all continue to grow in faith and learn more about God.

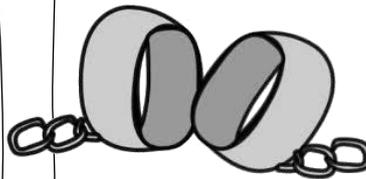


Family Activity 2

In our story today people picked up stones to attack Stephen, it was a horrible way to react. Stones appear throughout the Bible – in the Old Testament they were used to build altars as a reminder of good things God had done, the word of God is described as being like a firm rock we can build our lives on.

Many people are decorating and hiding rocks to encourage other families in their communities. Why not decorate some rocks together and think about how God can use anything for his glory even when people try to use things for destruction.

Active Prayer



These ten countries are those where it is currently hardest to live as a Christian, where persecution is still an issue.

North Korea
Afghanistan
Somalia
Libya
Pakistan

Eritrea
Sudan
Yemen
Iran
India

Why not find them together on a map and then take time to pray for them together. You could write each country on a strip of paper, make it into a paper chain and then rip it apart as you pray.

For more ideas of how to pray for the persecuted church why not visit www.opendoorsuk.org

True or False

1. Abraham was 100 when his son Isaac was born?
2. Moses led the Israelites through the dead sea?
3. Joseph had 12 brothers?
4. There are two prophetic books in the Bible beginning with the letter 'Z'.
5. There are 200 Psalms!
6. There are 4 gospel books in the Bible.
7. The second book of the Bible is called Leviticus.
8. Noah took two of every animal onto the ark.
9. Jesus once fed 4000 people at once!
10. There is a 'rock badger' mentioned in the Four books of the Bible.

Answers

Turn the page upside down to check your answers.

1. True!
2. False – it was the Red sea
3. False – he had 11, Joseph was the twelfth of Jacob's sons.
4. True – Zephaniah and Zechariah
5. False – There are 150, which is still a lot
6. True – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
7. False – The second book is Exodus.
8. False – actually Noah took two of every animal
9. True – (Matthew 15) but another time he also fed 5000 * (Matthew 14) and both times there might have been more as the women and children were not all counted
10. True – Leviticus 11 v 5, Deuteronomy 14 v 7, Psalm 104 v 18 and Proverbs 30 v 26

A colouring page you could print and colour together

This colouring sheet is provided by <https://picturebookapologetics.com/>

“ SANCTIFY CHRIST AS LORD
IN YOUR HEARTS,

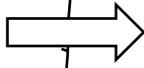
*always
being ready*

TO MAKE A DEFENSE
TO EVERYONE WHO
ASKS YOU TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT
FOR THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU,
YET WITH
GENTLENESS AND REVERENCE ”

1 PETER 3:15

Puzzle Sheet

Stephen new his scripture really well and used it to share his message. Draw your favourite Bible story here.



Christians are still persecuted around the world for following Jesus.

Can you find the ten countries where it is currently hardest to lives as a Christian in the wordsearch below? You could pray for each country as you find it.

n o r t h k o r e a p a i g f
 n a t s i n a h g f a e n r r
 c k y r y i u o c y k r d k j
 u t a t s e v u b o i t i y p
 k n y c f n m i e f s i a y f
 s u d a n q l e l u t r r r k
 a i l a m o s y n e a e d b x
 p m r j r b u u d m n z z s q

North Korea

Afghanistan

Somalia

Libya

Pakistan

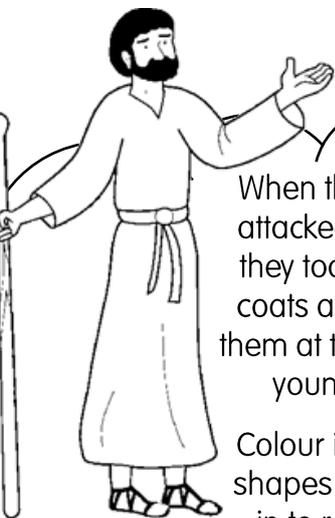
Eritrea

Sudan

Yemen

Iran

India



When the people attacked Stephen they took off their coats and placed them at the feet of a young man.

Colour in only the shapes with a dot in to reveal his name.

