



Lesson
148

2s & 3s

THE STONING OF STEPHEN

June 15 & 16

GOD IS TRUTH



LESSON GOAL:

Stephen bravely shared the Gospel even if it meant danger to himself.

People didn't like what he was saying, so they told lies about him. When questioned, Stephen stayed firm to the truth of God.

Acts 7:51-60

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BOLT: Backyard Summer Camp



KEY VERSE

for the month of June:

Say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord." Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved.

Romans 10:9, NIRV

MISSION FOCUS:

**Woodmen Students Guatemala
Mission Trip**

This month, we are praying for the high school students who are going on a mission trip to Guatemala from June 24-July 1. We are also raising money to purchase water filters and stoves that these students will install during their trip.

**Fundraising Goal: \$5000
By: June 15**



For the month of June:

JESUS IS THE GOOD NEWS

25
min

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in time is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome by creating a welcoming environment.



WELCOME FAMILIES

As kids arrive to check-in, greet them and help them feel safe, seen and secure.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! Do you have any offering to put in our offering bin? *(Direct child to offering station)*. You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

(Insert parent name), do you have a diaper bag or any other specific instructions for today? *(Respond accordingly)* Enjoy service!

DO:

Help kids feel **SAFE** (physically & emotionally), **SEEN** (known & understood) and **SOOTHED** (calmed & supported) so they can become **SECURE** in your classroom.



FREE PLAY

The goal of free play is to create space for toddlers to get adapted to the classroom so they can connect with the Ministry Partners and other kids.

DO:

As kids play with the classroom toys and games, take time to connect on their level. Initiate conversation by relating to something the child is doing, something you notice about him/her or an overview of what they can expect during class. The goal is to help them feel safe and connected.

Examples:

- That's a nice red shirt you're wearing! Is red your favorite color?
- I see you're holding a yellow lego. What are you building?
- I see that you're sad. Your grown ups went to church but they'll be back soon.
- We're going to learn about Jesus here. When we clean up our toys, we're going to do a craft.

15
min

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



Activity: Name that Item

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: Bag with a variety of items from the classroom



DO:

Pull out one item at a time. Make up what the item is. (Example: you pull out a ball and say “This is an ice cream cone!”).



SAY:

I said lots of things that you knew were not true. God helps us to know the truth. In today’s story, God helped Stephen continue to tell the truth even when it was hard to do.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions.



SAY:

Let’s answer **THE BIG 3** questions for today’s lesson!

1. Who is our story about today? **Stephen**
2. What is the problem? **Stephen was arrested and killed**
3. What will God do? **God helped Stephen continue to speak truth.**



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to transition to Large Group by sitting quietly in the designated story area.



SAY:

Let’s all work together to clean up so we can hear our Bible story for the day. We can sing a song as we clean!

Sing: “Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere.”

15
min

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God by participating in Worship and hearing an engaging Bible story.



EXPECTATIONS

As you begin Large Group, play the Church Today Expectations video ([Plex > Videos > EC > 2s & 3s](#)).



SAY:

We're glad to be at church today.
We will listen, we will pray.
We'll sit quietly in our spot.
We'll tell Jesus we love Him a lot!



DO:

PRAY before transitioning to worship.



WORSHIP

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to [Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s](#) folder.

SONG 1: Jesus is the Light of the World

SONG 2: 5 4 3 2 1 Let's God! Jesus is the Good News!



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story (see script on page 4). Use the flipbook provided.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

In our Bible story today, we learned that God is Truth. A man named Stephen told people the truth about Jesus. Who can you tell about Jesus? (wait for responses) Good job! Jesus loves when we tell people about Him.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

God is Truth

Friends, may you always remember that God is Truth. He loves you and He wants you to tell other people that He loves them, too.

BIBLE STORY - Stoning of Stephen



INTRODUCTION - HAMILTON

Use the Hamilton puppet to introduce the lesson topic and get the kids engaged.

SAY:

Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? **Hamilton shows us.** A little heart. Oh, and it says something on it! "God is Truth." **Hamilton nods.** Yes, God is Truth! What he says and does is always true! Let's listen to this true Bible story about God's truth right now.



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story. Use the story cards in your curriculum folder as you read the story.

SAY:

Stephen was a man who told people about Jesus. He told people about God's love and how He saved them through Jesus.

Some mean people didn't like what Stephen was saying about Jesus. They were very mad at him. **Let's make a mad face.** The mean people made up a lie about Stephen.

Hamilton, do you know what a lie is? Hamilton nods and whispers in your ear. Yes, a lie is when you say something that isn't true. It's not right. It's wrong.

The mean people said that Stephen was saying bad things, but he wasn't! Oh no! Stephen got in trouble even though he didn't do anything wrong. But Stephen was brave and continued to tell people about Jesus. Stephen told everyone the truth about Jesus and how He saved us even when it was hard.

God is Truth!

15
min

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



SAY IT OUT LOUD!

Help the kids remember the God Statement for the day by repeating it aloud and doing the hand motions.

SAY:

Today our God statement is **God is Truth!** Let's say it together in a fun way to help us remember it.

Say it loudly, softly and in a fun voice. Then do the hand motions.

DO:

God (hand vertical in front of face) is Truth (thumbs up).



ACTIVITY

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity that reinforces the daily lesson.

Supplies: Paper heart, God is Truth sticker

DO:

- Sit with the kids at the table.
- Give them the heart and some crayons or markers

SAY:

You have a heart. Do you know where your heart is in your body? Put your hand on your heart. Can you feel it beating?

Hold up a crayon. This crayon is (wrong color). Is that the truth? Is this crayon really...(whatever color you said)? No, this crayon is...(whatever color it really is.) That is the truth.

God always tells the truth. He IS the truth.

We can be like Stephen and tell our friends the truth about God.

You can decorate this heart and give it to someone to remind them that God is truth.

Don't forget to put on your "God is Truth" sticker!

15
min

EAT & PLAY

The goal of this time is to provide a snack, introduce kids to structured classroom games, have free play and to encourage interaction and participation with others.



SNACK

Check your classroom roster to ensure none of your kids have allergies, then offer each child a snack and water (provided in your classroom).



GAME IDEAS

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class.



DO:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body or discuss colors & numbers
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play “Simon Says” or “Follow the Leader”
- Make up a story using figurines or other toys
- Play more music on Plex and let kids follow along with hand motions
- Play “I spy”
- Gather paper and crayons and practice drawing

5
min

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their Explore craft, utilize the prayer station or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any upcoming events or announcements while handing their parent the announcement card or flyer.