

Lesson 4

Courage to Teach the Gospel



Theme: Courage — Trusting God to help us teach the gospel

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Sailing Through the Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Give each student an opportunity to say the Memory Verse for the class. When each one completes it, the students may show their approval as directed by the teacher. Help students who struggle with the memory work to be successful. Begin a display, such as the sample on page 10 of this Guide, that will eventually feature all three Memory Verses for the quarter. Use colored stars to represent each verse. Allow students to place a colored star, corresponding with the verse they recited, on their girl or boy of the display.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Acts 6:8-10, 7:58-60. Have reading students find and mark Acts 6:8 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by asking a student to show Jerusalem on a map.
5. Introduce Lesson Graphics using the *Journeys for Jesus Suitcase* as described on page 9 in this Guide.
6. Tell the story using the *Gospel is for All Lesson Graphics* and other props such as rocks (as an example, not for throwing).
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
 - Satan tried to distract Christians by a problem within the church.
 - The church chose men to address the problem, and some of these men also preached the gospel.
 - Stephen told Jews they were wrong, and he preached the gospel to them.

- Some Jews didn't like Stephen's message, and they stoned him to death.

8. Before class, fill the *Journeys for Jesus Suitcase* with several large rocks and some bathrobes or shirts. Let each student pick up the suitcase and whisper to you what they think could be in it for today's lesson that would make it so heavy. Keep the guesses private until everyone has guessed. From the suitcase reveal the rocks and "coats" for Saul to hold as you tell story of Stephen's preaching and of the Jewish rulers' stoning him. At the appropriate time in the lesson story, read together Acts 7:54-60.
9. Retell the account of Stephen's stoning. Have students pantomime the crowd's reactions to Stephen's sermon.

**Things to Get or Do
for Sunday Morning**

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Lesson 4

Courage to Teach the Gospel



Theme: Courage — Trusting God to help us teach the gospel

Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Sailing Through the Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Repeat the Sunday morning memory work activity for any students who were not present. Talk with the students about what the Memory Verse tells us about God.

Prayer

Starter

Suppose you want to go to a movie, but your parents say, “No.” You really want to go, so you try several things to “help” them change their minds. You may try these:

- Get your friend to ask your parents if you can go to the movie.
- Try to arrange for your friend’s parent to talk to your parents about it.
- Ask people about the movie to try to show your parents that it’s okay.
- Get a group of other kids from church to go.

Get the students to discuss why these efforts may work to change your parents’ minds about the movie. Whether you know the word or not, you have just used tactics. Tactics are methods we use to get or do what we want. Satan has many tactics he uses to get what he wants — to stop Christians from teaching the gospel to others.

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read Acts 6:8-10, 7:58-60.

Illustrations and Applications

1. **Objective:** *To demonstrate the reality of Stephen’s death for Jesus*

Showing the rocks that were used in the Sunday morning lesson, talk about how much it would hurt to be stoned. Discuss why Stephen was willing to be stoned. Have a prayer to thank God that we have freedom and opportunity to worship and serve God without being stoned or hurt in any other way.

☀ 2. *Objective: To demonstrate the hard work the seven chosen men had to do*

Have play money. On small pieces of paper, write the situation and need of different widows. Examples are these:

- “I am a widow. I am 40 years old and have one son who is grown up.”
- “I am an 85 year-old widow with no children.”
- “I am a 25 year-old widow with four small children. My parents are both dead. I have no brothers.

Select two or three students to decide how the money will be divided. Give them play money. Have the “widows,” one at a time, read their situation to the ones with the money. Then let them distribute the money. Talk about the time and energy it took to care for the widows. Talk about the apostles doing their work of praying and preaching while the chosen men did their work of caring for widows.

3. *Objective: To review people and events studied so far plus some in this lesson*

Page 75 of this Guide is a reproducible worksheet. Make a copy for each student on bright colored paper. You may use this as a pre-class activity or as a review at the beginning of the second class period. This activity involves people studied in previous lessons and some in this lesson.

Journeys for Jesus Journal

I am Stephen. God helped me perform wonders and signs so people would know He sent me. But some people still hate me for preaching about Jesus. I hear them talking about stoning me to death. I will keep on preaching because ...

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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