



Bible Story: Keep Holding On (Stephen) • **Acts 6:1–7:60**

Bottom Line: Keep going because God knows the end of the story.

Key Question: When were you scared but kept going?

Memory Verse: *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.. Galatians 6:9 (NIV)*

Life App: Determination—Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

1. Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Read **Acts 6:1–7:60**
- For older kids, work through the passages of scripture—spend time engaging in the passages with the kids. Think of questions you can ask them as you read these verses (Who, what, when, where, why, how questions)
- **Ask:**
 - What do we know about Stephen? How would you describe him? (If necessary, read **Acts 6:5, 6:3, 6:8**)
 - What does it mean that Stephen was full of faith? (*Stephen trusted God no matter what. This is an opportunity to talk about what faith means – faith is trusting God no matter what.*)
 - Why was Stephen arrested? (*His enemies told lies about him.*)
 - Stephen didn't know what would happen when he started talking about Jesus; it had to be scary for Stephen to have people yelling at him and telling lies about him. How did Stephen show determination?
 - How do you think being full of faith helped Stephen to keep going even when the situation he was in was very scary?
- Encourage kids to share a time they were scared or were in a situation they didn't know how it would turn out but kept going.
- **Ask:** What are some truths you know about God that you could remember to help you to keep going when things are difficult and you don't know what's going to happen?

2. The Stories of Old

What You Need: Play-Doh®

What You Do:

- Remind kids that in today's story, Stephen told the Sanhedrin stories from Israel's history.
- Ask kids to recall some of the stories they've learned throughout this school year at church.
- Encourage them to use the Play-Doh to shape a character or item from the story. If you do not have any Play-Doh, they can just retell the stories they remember.
- As kids work, ask them what they're making and what the story was about.
- If kids need help remembering stories, here are some highlights:
 - Noah

- Joseph's story
- Moses and the burning bush
- Israel crossing the Red Sea
- David and Goliath
- Daniel and the lions' den
- Jesus' birth
- John the Baptist baptizing Jesus
- Jesus at Mary and Martha's house
- Zacchaeus
- The story of the lost son (the prodigal son)
- Jesus' death and resurrection

What You Say:

"You are all great Bible storytellers! So was Stephen. He told the leaders all about God and His chosen people, the Israelites, and about Jesus. But the leaders were angry with him. They didn't like what he was saying. So they were very mean to him, they shouted at him, and they threw stones at him. It wasn't fair! But Stephen kept going and kept living and speaking for God until his last breath. He even asked God to forgive the leaders. He knew that God knew the end of the story, and he trusted God with everything he had. We can do the same. We can **[Bottom Line] keep going because God knows the end of the story.** We might not ever be in a situation like Stephen is, but we face tough times sometimes, too. When we do, we can remember that God knows everything, and we can trust Him!"

[Make It Personal] (*Share a time when you were overwhelmed by an obstacle or challenge and you decided to trust God because you knew He had a plan. If you have a story about how things didn't get better immediately, but you knew God was with you, share that one!*)

3. Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- Why do you think Stephen was determined to keep going even though people were getting very angry with him? What helped Stephen to keep going?
- How does knowing who God is and that He is always with us help us to keep going even when we are scared?
- When was a time you were scared but kept going?

4. Lesson Recap and Prayer Journal:

What You Need: Prayer journal, paper, something to write with

What You Do:

- As a family, **add to your prayer journal** or make a prayer journal if you have not already done so.
 - The Bible teaches us that the "the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (**James 5:16b**). We are encouraging you to make a family prayer journal. It can be as fancy or as simple as you want. An example is provided on our Kids at The Heights Facebook Page! A prayer journal can be a tool to record your prayer requests and thanksgivings. It can also help you grow your faith as you keep a record of how the Lord answers your prayers.
- Tell kids to think about something in their lives that they don't know the end of the story to.
 - Maybe their grandma is very sick.
 - Maybe their birthday is coming up, and they don't know if they'll get what they asked for.
 - Maybe their parents are fighting a lot.
 - Maybe their cat ran away.
 - Maybe they're worried about the Corona Virus and not sure when things will return to normal.

What You Say:

"There are a lot of things in our lives that we don't know the end of the story to. Some of those are very serious things, like somebody being very sick. And some of them are more fun things, like not knowing what you'll get for your birthday. But no matter what the story is, God knows the end of it! And we can trust that He will always do what's best, because He loves us. We can **[Bottom Line] keep going because God knows the end of the story.** Let's pray.

"Dear God, You are so awesome and amazing. You know everything, and that is SO cool! And because You know everything, we know we can trust you with our stories, because you know the end of them. Thanks for loving us, God. Amen."