

# SABBATH SCHOOL

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## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 1 • Unit 7 • Week 2

### STEPHEN FORGIVES

#### OBJECTIVE:

The Bible teaches through the story of Stephen that God wants us to love others enough to forgive them when they hurt us with words or deeds.

#### ATTENTION GETTER:

Do: Display a bag of rocks then ask the following questions.

Ask: Have you ever tried to stop someone from doing something wrong and had them become angry with you?

Has anyone ever made fun of you because you can't do something well, or because you don't celebrate Christmas?

How did you feel when they got angry with you? Did it make you feel bad? Did it hurt your feelings?

Say: Sometimes when people say or do hurtful things it is like they are throwing these rocks at us. [Hold up bag of rocks.] If someone threw a rock at you, it would hurt.

Do: Hand out a small stone to each child.

Ask: Has anyone ever said anything mean to you?

Do: As each child tells an experience, have him/her add his or her rock to the bag.

#### BIBLE LESSON:

Say: Listen to this story about a man named Stephen, who stood up for what was right, and told

others when they did wrong. He told them that they were wrong to crucify Jesus. When he did, they got angry with him. This story is found in the New Testament, in Acts 7:51-60. [Hold up Bible and show the children where this is.]

Do: Read the account in the Bible. Stop and explain these words and phrases as you read:

- Cut to the heart—furious—very angry, mad.
- Gnashed at him with their teeth—clenched their teeth tightly (have the children clench their teeth).
- Charge them—blame them.
- Fell asleep—how people in the olden days said “died.”

Say: Stephen forgave the people because he knew they didn’t understand that they were wrong. We need to forgive others as Stephen did when they hurt us with “rocky” words.

### **LESSON APPLICATION:**

Supplies: Two small Zip-loc bags per child

Glue

Crayons

Bag of small rocks

Bag of cotton balls

Prepare: Labels with “Mean Words Hurt” and “Forgiveness Heals” written on them (one of each for each child).

Ask: Did Stephen try to throw stones or rocks back?

Say: Remember, these people were trying to stone Stephen for a wrong reason. They were not following God’s laws found in the Old Testament.

Who remembers what Jesus said when He was dying for our sins? “Father forgive them!”

Stephen, like Jesus, forgave them when they said mean, “rocky” words, and even when they threw real stones at him. He asked God softly to forgive them.

Do: Display a bag of cotton balls.

Say: Stephen’s words were forgiving and soft like cotton balls. Let’s make some bags to help us remember to forgive others softly and not get angry and throw rocks at them.

Do: Give each child two small Zip-loc bags. Have the children glue the label “Mean Words Hurt” on one Zip-loc bag and the label “Forgiveness Heals” on the other. (You may want to have the children draw a rock around the “Mean” label and a cotton ball around the “Forgiveness” label and color.)

Give each child some rocks and cotton balls to put in their bags.

Say: When you take these bags home, remember our “Mean Words” bag. We should not throw rocks or say mean things to others. We should also remember that if anyone hurts our feelings, we should say, “I forgive you”—like the cotton balls in our “Forgiveness Heals” bag.

Let’s always practice forgiving others like Stephen and Jesus.

### **Music:**

Say: Let’s sing a song to help us to remember to be forgiving like Stephen.

Do: Sing the following to the tune of “Frere Jacques.”

Be for-giv-ing, be for-giv-ing,  
When you’re sad, if you’re mad.  
Steph-en for-gave oth-ers, try for-giv-ing oth-ers.  
You’ll be glad, you’ll be glad.

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

Luke 6:37b “Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”

Do: Rehearse the memory verse a few times with the children repeating it. Form a circle. Take a small beanbag or balloon and toss it to one of the children. Have them try to say the verse or as much of the verse as they can and then toss the bag to someone else. Give everyone a turn.

# *family activity*

## **THE POINT:**

The Bible teaches through the story of Stephen that God wants us to love others enough to forgive them when they hurt us with words or deeds.

## **ASK ME...**

- What are mean words like?
- How do you feel when someone says mean things to you?
- How can we feel better?
- What did Stephen do?
- How should we treat others when they hurt us?

## **FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

Give your child a cotton ball to put in his/her pocket to remind him or her to be forgiving. Give this reminder: If anyone at school or in your family makes you angry or hurts your feelings this week, practice being forgiving like Stephen and Jesus. Each time someone hurts you with mean words, put a small rock in your "Mean Words Hurt" bag. If you forgave them, put a cotton ball in your "Forgiveness Heals" bag. Try to fill up your "Forgiveness" bag.

Ask your child each day if they have thrown any "rocky" (or mean) words at anyone today. Then ask if anyone threw "rocky" words at them.

Talk about how when people throw "rocky" (mean) words at you, we can forgive them and throw pretend cotton balls back at them. Practice saying nice things with people in your family with a real cotton ball. Sit in a circle. Toss a cotton ball to a family member and say something nice to them. Take turns tossing nice words to each family member.

Instructions: Cut the strip off the bottom of this page. You will see this week's memory verse on the back. After your child has learned the verse, glue the two ends together, forming a link of a paper chain. Each lesson's memory verse will add a new link to their chain of Bible knowledge.

-----cut along dotted line-----

(Teacher's note: please write the memory verse on the back of this page at the bottom.)