



The Jews Resist the Holy Spirit

Acts 6:1–7:60



LESSON GOAL

The child will not resist the Holy Spirit when the Gospel is preached.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- Stephen preached the gospel.
- The Jews said that Stephen blasphemed God.
- The Jews rejected Stephen's message.

KEY VERSE

"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you." —Acts 7:51

APPLICATION

- Be a servant to others as Stephen was.
- Ask yourself if you are rejecting God.
- Pray that God will save people, even those who hurt His children.

NEXT WEEK

The Church Is Persecuted and the Gospel Spreads
Acts 8:1–25

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... you shall teach them to your children.” —Deuteronomy 11:18–19

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here that will aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Introduction

In Acts 6:7, Luke gives the last of four summaries of the growth of the church in Jerusalem. Similar to the previous three (2:40–47; 4:32–35; 5:12–16), Luke describes how the “word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem” (6:7). One exciting manifestation of the Gospel’s success was that a “great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.” Even though the Sanhedrin had commanded the apostles to stop preaching the name of Jesus, the apostles faithfully obeyed God and many who heard the Gospel were saved.

Even though many Jews had been saved (perhaps as many as 20,000), most Jews in Jerusalem continued in their unrepentant rejection of Jesus. For approximately two years, the Jews of Jerusalem viewed the believers with favor (2:47; 4:33; 5:13) but refused to accept their message. They respected the believers’ lives but not their Lord. Finally, the Jews of Jerusalem could stand hearing about Jesus no longer. They hideously manifested their intense hatred of the Gospel when they killed Stephen. The Jews of Jerusalem wanted to continue to think themselves righteous rather than admit their need for a Savior.

The Ministry of Stephen (Acts 6:1–15)

Although the apostles had been flogged for preaching the name of Jesus, the first person murdered for doing so was not an apostle but a man named Stephen. Before his death, Stephen had a successful ministry among both the believers and unbelievers.

Stephen is first introduced in Acts after a complaint arose among the believers between the Hellenists (Jews who came to Jerusalem from the dispersion and whose first language was Greek) and the Hebrews (Aramaic-speaking Jews who grew up in Palestine) (Acts 6:1). The problem was that Hellenist widows were not being provided for as well as the Hebrew widows. The apostles appointed seven men to address the issue so they could continue their focus on prayer and preaching (Acts 6:2–4). The apostles required that the men be “of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom” (Acts 6:3). One of the seven men chosen was Stephen. Not only did Stephen obviously satisfy the apostles’ requirements, but Luke emphasizes that Stephen was “a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit” (6:5). Stephen’s life was characterized by his submission to the Spirit, by wisdom, and by faith. Following the apostles’ praying over and laying hands on the seven (a demonstration of the apostle’s affirming of their ministry), Stephen faithfully ministered to the church, ensuring that both groups of widows were well-provided for. Stephen’s ministry extended beyond the believers to the unbelieving Jewish community. Luke again described Stephen in Acts 6:8: “Stephen, full of faith and

power, did great wonders and signs among the people.” In addition to his previous characteristics, Stephen also had been given power to do miracles. Instead of taking the Gospel to the temple (where the apostles ministered), Stephen went to a few of the many Greek-speaking synagogues in Jerusalem. (Synagogues developed during the Babylonian for Jews to meet together to worship and read Scripture.) Although the Greek of Acts 6:9 is difficult, it appears that Stephen went to three synagogues in Jerusalem: the Synagogue of the Freedmen (composed of the descendants of Jews who had been taken as slaves to Rome), a synagogue of those from Cyrene and Alexandria (two North African cities), and a synagogue of those from Cilicia and Asia (two Roman provinces in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey) (Acts 6:9). Although it is impossible to be dogmatic, Stephen’s Greek name and his being picked to deal with the problem between the Hellenists and Hebrew suggests that he was a Hellenist himself. If Stephen were a Hellenist, it was only natural for him to go to the Greek-speaking synagogues since his primary language would have been Greek.

The synagogue Jews became angry with Stephen’s ministry and plotted against him. When Stephen debated with them in the synagogues about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and their need for repentance, the Jews “were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke” (Acts 6:10). Unable to prove him wrong, the Jews sought to discredit Stephen by persuading men to lie about him and say that he spoke “blasphemous words against Moses and God” (Acts 6:11). After their lies had spread, the jealous Jews “stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council” (Acts 6:12). For the first time since the crucifixion of Jesus, the general population (“the people”), the Sadducees (“the elders”) and the Pharisees (“the scribes”) were united in their opposition of God’s servants. Similar to Jesus’ trial, false witnesses came forward to testify against Stephen (6:13). They repeated the earlier lies that Stephen had spoken blasphemy and included new lies that Stephen was preaching that Jesus would destroy the temple (“this place”) and “change the customs which Moses delivered to us” (Acts 6:14). The false witnesses lied not only about Stephen but also the Lord Jesus.

Before recording Stephen’s defense, Luke describes Stephen’s appearance before the Sanhedrin: “All who sat in the council...saw his face as the face of an angel” (6:15). Stephen’s face glowed. God testified his approval of Stephen by transforming Stephen’s face. Stephen’s reflection of God’s glory was both commendation of the message he was about to give and testimony that he was not guilty of blasphemy.

The Message of Stephen (Acts 7:1–53)

In his message before the Sanhedrin, Stephen responded to the charges brought against him by the false witnesses. Instead of giving a point by point refutation, Stephen demonstrated that he was not guilty of blasphemy by summarizing Scripture’s record of how God worked with Israel. Not only did Stephen’s message show that he was orthodox in his beliefs, but the message was also designed to convict those present of their rebellion and idolatry.

Stephen began his message by focusing on God’s promises to Abraham (Acts 7:2–8). Stephen summarized how God called Abraham out of Mesopotamia and promised to give him the land “for a possession” to both him “and to his descendants after Him” (7:5). In addition, God told Abraham that his descendants would be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years. He also promised Abraham that his descendants “shall come out and serve Me in this place” (7:7). After presenting God’s promises that Abraham’s descendants would worship him in the Promised Land, Stephen began to show how God fulfilled those promises, first by

giving Abraham a son named Isaac, by giving Isaac a son named Jacob, and by giving Jacob twelve sons, the “Twelve Patriarchs” (7:8). Stephen rejoiced in God’s plan for Abraham and in Israel’s privileged position before God.

God’s plan for Israel to worship Him in the Promised Land would only be fulfilled if God preserved Israel until they entered the land (Acts 7:7). Stephen next told how God protected Jacob’s family from starvation through Joseph’s being sold into slavery (7:9–16). God did not abandon the enslaved Joseph but exalted Him so that Joseph could save his family. Stephen’s summary of God’s deliverance through Joseph demonstrated Stephen’s faith in God’s prophecies. The summary may have also been included to start the Jews thinking about their sin. Like their ancestors who plotted against Joseph, the Jews had plotted against the One whom God had appointed for their deliverance.

In His retelling of God’s plan for the people of Israel, Stephen next focused on Moses (7:17–34). After referring again to God’s promise to bring Abraham’s descendants out of bondage, Stephen told how Israel had been oppressed in Egypt and how God prepared a deliverer to rescue them (vv.17–22). Compared to all the other events of Moses’ life, Stephen spent a surprising amount of time on Moses’ being rejected as deliverer while still in Egypt (vv.23–28). Because the Israelites did not “understand that God would deliver them by his hand,” Moses was forced to flee Egypt. Stephen affirmed how God revealed himself to Moses and sent him to deliver Israel. Although Stephen had been accused of blaspheming Moses (6:11) and the Law (6:13), Stephen revealed that he had the highest respect for Moses.

Stephen used his description of Moses as an occasion to rebuke the Jews for their sinfulness. Stephen affirmed that Moses was the “one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer” but he also emphasized that Moses was “whom they rejected” (7:35). Stephen had already discussed Israel’s rejection of Moses as a deliverer (vv.23–29) and now brings it up again. While not specifically stated, Stephen’s point is clear: like the Israelites in Egypt, the Jews were guilty of rejecting God’s chosen deliverer. Although Stephen had been accused of rejecting Moses, Stephen affirmed Moses’ prophecy to send a “Prophet like me from your brethren” (v.37). Jews understood this prophecy to be about the Messiah. While Stephen had obeyed Moses’ command to listen to the Prophet, the majority of Jews had not. Stephen not only declared that Moses had received the “living oracles to give to us” but also reminded that Jews that their fathers “would not obey, but rejected” (vv.38–39). Israel’s fathers rejected God’s Law and made a “calf in those days, offered sacrifices to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands” (v.41). Although not explicit, Stephen implied that he had accepted Moses as the lawgiver but that the Israelites had not.

Following a description of Israel’s idolatry, Stephen turned to a discussion of the temple. Stephen had been accused of speaking “blasphemous words against this holy place” (6:13). Stephen again revealed his orthodox belief that God had given the pattern of the tabernacle, that Moses had obeyed God’s directions, that Joshua brought the tabernacle into the Promised Land, that David wanted to build a permanent temple, but that Solomon had been chosen by God to build a temple (7:44–47). Stephen had no blasphemous view of the temple...but the Jews did! Stephen corrected the Jews: “However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with human hands” (v.48). The phrase “made with hands” was commonly used to refer to idols (as in Acts 7:41). Because the temple had become more important to the Jews than God Himself, they had turned the temple into an idol, the object of worship. Rather, than seeing the temple as a place to worship God, they had made the temple, and the religion it represented, an object of worship.

Up to this point, Stephen had been hinting that the Jews were like their ancestors, but in Verse 51, Stephen makes his indictment clear: “as your fathers did, so do

you.” Stephen rebuked the Jews for being “stiff-necked” (obstinate and unwilling to repent) and “uncircumcised in heart and ears” (v.51). (Although their bodies bore the physical marks of being in the Abrahamic covenant, their hearts and ears were like those of a pagan. Being blessed by God had not change the Jews’ hearts.) Stephen characterized their unwillingness to submit to God’s messengers: “You always resist the Holy Spirit” (v.51). Just like their fathers, they would not listen when the Holy Spirit through the prophets “foretold the coming of the Just One” (v.52). Their fathers had killed the messengers but they had killed the Messiah. He was not guilty of blasphemy, but the Jews were guilty of not keeping the Law (v.53).

The Murder of Stephen (Acts 7:54–60)

The Jews were furious when they heard Stephen’s rebuttal turn into rebuke. They gnashed their teeth in anger. The truth was like a knife which painfully cut away at their façade and exposed their interior sin (v.54). They were even more angry when Stephen was granted a vision of “Jesus standing at the right hand of God” (v.55). He boldly testified to what he saw: “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God” (v.56). Hearing that Jesus who they had crucified was in God’s presence was too much for the Jews. The “Son of Man” was used in the book of Daniel to refer to the Messiah. In a vision, Daniel had seen the “Son of Man” given “dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him” (Daniel 7:13–14). If the Jews had killed the Son of Man, they would certainly be judged, unless they repented. But instead of repenting, they “cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears” (Acts 7:57) so that they could no longer hear Stephen’s blasphemy. The crowd rushed upon him, dragged him outside the city and stoned him (v.58). Those who had testified against Stephen “laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul” (v.59). Saul was obviously involved in what happened to Steven, perhaps even being one of those who had induced others to lie about Steven and had set up false witnesses (6:11–13). (Saul was from Tarsus, located in Cilicia. He may have worshiped in the synagogue of “those from Cilicia and Asia” which Stephen had preached in (Acts 6:8–9)).

Although the Jews thought Stephen deserved death, Stephen entered into His Lord’s presence with a clear conscience. He looked forward to being in Jesus’ presence and confidently prayed to Jesus, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” (7:59). Jesus’ prayer on the cross was similar: “Father, into your hands I commit My spirit” (Luke 23:47). The Son of Man standing before the Father was ready to receive and reward His servant.

Instead of praying for judgment upon the mob, Stephen “knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin’” (Acts 7:60). While he was being murdered, Stephen desired that God would forgive the people for this atrocity. Jesus prayed a similar prayer before he died: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34). They both prayed for those who acted “ignorantly in unbelief,” like the crowd which was actually convinced Stephen had blasphemed (I Timothy 1:13). Saul was one of those who had acted in unbelief whom God chose to have mercy upon. The Lord heard both of Stephen’s prayers.

Conclusion

Following the death of Stephen, persecution broke out against the church and the church was scattered across Judea and Samaria. Acts 8 records how God used the dispersion of the believers to save more of God’s elect. But Jerusalem had turned its back on the proclamation of the Lord Jesus and sought to kill those who testi-

fied to Him. The Jews in Jerusalem had chosen to resist the Holy Spirit and continue in their rebellion.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.”
—Psalm 78:1*

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Who did not like that the apostles were healing people in Jesus’ name?
The religious leaders.

Why didn’t they like what the apostles were doing?
They were jealous because the apostles were getting more attention than they were.

What did the religious leaders do to Peter and John?
They threw them in jail.

What happened at night while they were in jail?
The Lord sent an angel to open the doors of the prison and let the disciples out.

What happened when they came to get the disciples?
They found that the prison was still locked but that the apostles were not inside.

What did they find that the religious leaders were doing?
They were standing in the temple and teaching the people.

What did the religious leaders command the apostles not to do?
They told the disciples not to speak in Jesus’ name. Then they had the apostles beaten.

What did the apostles do after they were let go?
They praised God that He would use them and they kept on preaching.



Difficult Concepts

Stiff-necked: Stiff-necked means stubborn. Have the students imagine they are trying to lead a donkey who will not move. When they pull on the rope around his neck, the donkey would brace his legs and stiffen his neck because he was being stubborn.

Resisting the Holy Spirit: Resisting the Holy Spirit is the same as resisting God’s Word. Have the students put their hands over their ears while you try to talk to them, and then explain that if we can’t hear God’s Word the Holy Spirit can’t speak to us.

Synagogue vs. Temple: Synagogues were meeting places for the Jewish people. They would go to the synagogue every week on Saturday to hear teaching from

the Old Testament and to pray. There were many synagogues everywhere. The Temple was more special than a synagogue because there was only one temple. At the Temple, animals would be sacrificed. The priests worked at the Temple, but not at the synagogues.

Cut to the heart, gnashing teeth: The Jews were very upset by Stephen's preaching. It was like a doctor had operated on them and given them open-heart surgery. They felt like Stephen could see deep down inside of them, and that hurt like it would if someone stabbed you with a knife. They were so upset they ground their teeth. Have the students make angry faces, and point out one student who is grinding his teeth.

Stoning: In America, very bad criminals are executed either with the electric chair or by a shot. In Bible times, however, they killed criminals by stoning them with rocks. They didn't use little rocks, they used big heavy stones.



Resisting

Illustrate the concept of what it means to resist by creating a puppet show. One puppet tells another what should be done and the first resists it by not obeying or listening. A variety of scenarios can be used such as a mother and child, teacher and student, two friends, etc.



Cast the Stone Game

Create rocks with crumpled newspapers stuffed into stockings or with any material that will look like a rock. Create a masking tape bull's eye, designating points for each section. Instruct the students to cast the stones onto the target. The student with the highest points wins. Transition from this game by explaining to the students that in today's lesson we will hear about people who threw stones at a man named Stephen.



Resisting the Holy Spirit

To teach the students what it means to resist, play a game of tug-of-war. Explain that the goal of the game is to be not pulled over the line in the middle of the room. They are to resist the other team. In today's lesson some people will resist the work of the Holy Spirit.



Use Your Lips

We use our lips every day to do things like eat ice cream, whistle, talk to our friends, and even sing. Of all the things that we do with our lips the most important thing is to share the good news with others. Instruct the students to create lips using clay or pasta. Explain that in today's lesson we will hear about a man who used his lips to tell others about Jesus. This man's name was Stephen.



A Bold Heart

Show the students a picture of a body builder or of a muscle. Ask the students if this man is strong. Although this man was strong with his body Christians can be strong with courage and boldness. In today's lesson we will be learning about a man named Stephen who was a very courageous and bold Christian.



Stones

Bring in an assortment of stones for the students to look at and color. Explain to the students that it is not good to throw stones at anyone but in today's lesson some men threw stones at a man named Stephen.



Twelve and Seven

The early church grew and grew until there was a lot of work to be done. The 12 apostles need to spend their time praying and teaching others so they chose seven godly men to serve. Give each student a sandwich bag with 19 dried beans or cereal in it. Instruct them to divide them into two groups of seven and 12. Ask the students to listen for those numbers during the lesson time.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.” —Psalm 78:4

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

The Sanhedrin had commanded the apostles to stop preaching about Jesus, but the apostles obeyed God instead. They went on preaching and many people were saved. Most Jews, though, rejected Jesus and refused to repent of their sins.

For the first two years after Pentecost, the apostles and other Christians were able to preach and teach about Jesus without very much persecution. Most of the Jews in Jerusalem did not like their message, but were not bothered by the Christians. That all changed with a man named Stephen. Stephen was a Christian who had a good reputation in the church. People knew him to be a man who had great faith and was full of the Holy Spirit. He and six other men were chosen by the apostles to settle an argument between some Christians from Greece and some Christians from Palestine. They were able to settle the argument, and Stephen made sure that everyone was taken care of.

Stephen had a ministry outside of the church as well. He went to many of the Greek-speaking Synagogues and taught about Jesus. He was also given power by the Holy Spirit to do miracles. When Stephen taught about Jesus, the people were not able to give a good reason why they should not believe in Jesus and repent, but they did not want to become Christians. The truth he taught made them feel guilty, and so they got very angry with him. They wanted to keep people from listening to him, so they started spreading lies about him. People were saying that Stephen was teaching lies about God, Moses, the temple, and the law. The people brought him before the Sanhedrin. They sent people to tell the Sanhedrin lies about what Stephen was teaching.

God was with Stephen the whole time he stood there. He even allowed His glory to shine on his face. The members of the Sanhedrin thought his face looked like the face of an angel. The high priest asked for Stephen’s response to the charges being brought against him. Since people were saying that he was teaching lies about God, Moses, and the Jews in general, he decided to tell them what he actually believed, so he preached a sermon about the history of the Jewish people. He started with Abraham, the father of the Jewish people, who had promised to give a great land that would be passed down through his sons. God had also told

Abraham that they would suffer before receiving the land, and they did. Abraham had a son Isaac, and Isaac had a son Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons, who were the Patriarchs of Israel. Eleven of them became jealous of the twelfth son, named Joseph, and sold him into slavery. But God was with Joseph, and he became very powerful in Egypt. God used Joseph to save his brothers from starving to death by bringing them to Egypt and giving them food and a place to live. The Jews were persecuted in Egypt, so God sent Moses to deliver them, but they rejected him. They did not understand that God's plan was to use Moses to lead them out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. God sent Moses again, and this time he led them out of Egypt and they escaped persecution. Stephen also preached about the temple, which he had been accused of teaching lies about. He reminded the Jews that God did not live in the temple. The Jews had made the temple into a god, and had forgotten that the temple itself was not God.

Stephen finished his sermon by confronting the sin of the Jews. He was very bold and told them that they were stubborn and unable to hear the truth. He said that they were as stubborn as their fathers and were resisting the Holy Spirit. Just like their fathers had persecuted the prophets before them, they themselves had persecuted and killed the Messiah. He told them that they were murderers and betrayers, and had broken the law of God.

The Jews were furious at what Stephen had said about them. That did not stop Stephen from continuing. God allowed Stephen to see up into heaven, and he said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" (Acts 7:55). That pushed the Jews to far. They put their hands over their ears and screamed. They attacked him and threw him outside the city. They began throwing rocks at him. Stephen prayed that God would forgive them for their sins, and then he asked God to receive his spirit. Then Stephen died from being hit by the rocks. God answered Stephen's prayer. He received Stephen's spirit into heaven, and He eventually saved one of the men responsible for his death. That man was named Saul.

After Stephen's death, the Jews persecuted Christians even more. The church was forced to scatter about the land of Judea and Samaria so that they wouldn't all be killed. God used that for his good though. When Christians left Jerusalem and moved to other lands, they told the people of other lands about Jesus, and people in those lands repented of their sins and were saved.



Lesson Questions

What were some characteristics of Stephen?

He was a man of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit, wisdom and faith.

Who did Stephen preach to?

Stephen preached to those in Greek speaking synagogues.

Who did Stephen speak to?

Stephen spoke to the Sanhedrin.

What did Stephen tell the Sanhedrin?

Stephen told them of God's plan for Israel and how the Jews were rejecting the true Messiah.

What did the Jews think of Stephen's message?

They were very angry at Stephen. They gnashed their teeth in anger at him, covered their ears and cried out in a loud voice.

What did the Jews do to Stephen?
They picked up stones and hit Stephen with them to kill him.

What did Stephen ask God as he was being killed?
Stephen asked God to forgive the Jews of killing him.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

Use appropriate A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards® with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannel Graph

Use appropriate flannel graph pieces with the lesson.



Visual Aids

While teaching the lesson, use visuals such as Joseph's coat, Moses' staff, and the golden calf to illustrate some of the main points of Stephen's message. Past coloring pictures may also be a helpful resource.



Act It Out

Skit 1: Have one of the teachers dress up as a widow (all in black) and explain what happened from her perspective.

Skit 2: Have one of the teachers dress up as Stephen and act out chapter 7.



Resisting illustrations

Using two magnets (the horseshoe kind or any double-sided magnet is preferable) bring the magnets close together, and show how they repulse each other. Put one magnet on the table and push it off the edge using the other magnet. Then, show how the magnets stick to each other when they are correctly lined up.

Fill a small pan with water. Sprinkle pepper on one side of it. As you talk about resisting, dip one finger in some soapy water and then place your finger in the pan with the pepper. The pepper should spread out away from your soapy finger.



Spread of the Gospel

Get a jar or plastic container. Begin filling it with marbles, illustrating believers getting saved and the church getting bigger. Then, shake up the jar to demonstrate the church being persecuted. Dump the marbles out on the floor to illustrate the spread of the Gospel.

Praise and Worship

Father, I Adore You

Lord, I Lift Your Name On High

Change My Heart O God

I See the Lord

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." —Psalm 78:7

Choose ideas from this section that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Craft: Stephen Stone

Materials: average size stone for each student, paint, paint brushes

Directions: Pass out a stone to each student. Direct students to paint Stephen's name on the stone as a reminder of his martyrdom. Instruct students to place the stone somewhere at home that will serve as an encouragement to follow Stephen's example of being a servant despite persecution.



Review Book

Materials: sheets of paper, string, glue, 50% reduced coloring sheets

Directions: Create a review book using pictures from the first five lessons. Cut three sheets of paper short ways in half. Put the pages together and fold down the middle to create a book. Hole punch two holes along the folded line and lace with string. Next, photocopy the coloring sheets at 50% and cut out pictures on a cutting board. Give the pictures to the students in order and have them glue them to each page. This review book idea should also be used throughout the entirety of the acts lessons and as review activity following the series.

Coloring Pages

Give each child a copy of the coloring sheet at the back of the lesson. He or she can color the pages in class or take them home to color.



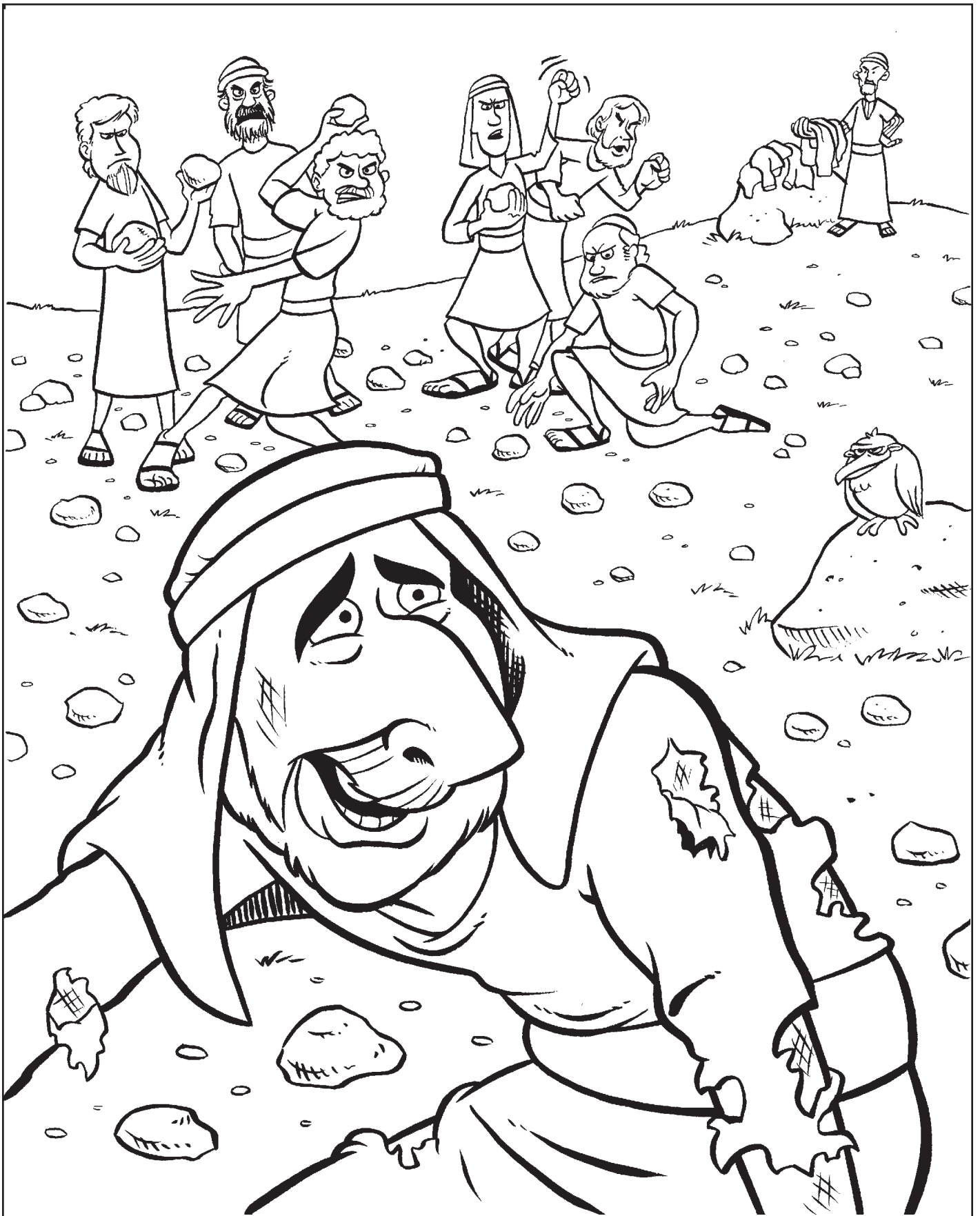
MEMORY VERSE

"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you." —Acts 7:51



“But [Stephen], being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, ‘Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’”

—Acts 7:55–56



"Then [Stephen] knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not charge them with this sin.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep."

—Acts 8:60

