

Trekkers: 1st-3rd Grades

Memory Verse

Needed: Nothing

Instructions:

1. Stand across from your kids
2. Tell your kids to stand on one leg and begin saying the key passage in unison with you.
3. If anyone wobbles and puts their foot down, stop and start over from the beginning.
4. Challenge yourselves to see how many times you can say the key passage while balancing on one leg.

Key Passage: “So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others” Romans 12:5

Say: “Surprisingly, it can be tough to do something as simple as balancing on one foot if you are occupying your brain with something like remembering something you have memorized. It doesn’t take much to make our bodies struggle to work together! Paul knew that was true about the body of Christ too, so he wrote our key passage to remind believers that they should be united as one in Jesus.

Discussion Questions to Ask Kids (Based on the Story)

1. *What was Stephen accused of? (blasphemy, saying something untrue and dishonoring about God; Acts 6:11)*
2. *What did Stephen preach about? (Stephen used Israel’s history to explain Jesus is the Messiah; Acts 7:51-52)*
3. *What did the religious leaders do to Stephen as a result of his preaching about Jesus? (killed him, Acts 7:57-60)*
4. *Have you ever faced persecution for your faith? Guide kids to think about ways they may feel persecuted. Be sensitive to their experiences while taking care not to minimize the harsh persecution Christians face in other parts of the world.*
5. *How can we stand up boldly for Jesus in the face of persecution? Discuss the strength and power available to believers through the Holy Spirit. Remind kids that He can help us be bold in hard times. Encourage kids to trust God and have faith that He turns all things to good, even when we don’t see the good results.*
6. *What should we do if we are persecuted? Talk through what Stephen did. Help the kids see that Stephen did not fight his enemies, but instead asked God to forgive them for killing him. Remind kids that Jesus promised troubles and persecution would come. Encourage kids to pray for boldness in hard times, not just for things to get easier.*

Say: "Stephen preached about Jesus no matter what. We may not face the same kind of persecution. But whatever we face, trusting God is the best option. We can pray for boldness in the face of persecution and that God will use our trials to bless His church."

Activity:Upgrade

Needed:Paper and pencil

Instructions:

- Go into a room with a variety of items. For example, the living room has couches, a TV, a coffee table...
- Provide a pencil and paper to your kids
- Instruct the kids to write down 10 items in the room
- Then have them rate how valuable each item is from least to greatest (1=least value; 10=greatest value)
- Encourage your kids to not just think of the price, but also how much they would want to own or use each item

Say "For some of you, if you had to trade one of those items for another, it might be an easy choice. You might see it as an upgrade to give up #4 on your list to get #10 on your list. In a way, that helps us think about the choices Stephen made in our story today.

What did Stephen give up? [*His life.*] What did Stephen gain? [*He got to be with Jesus in heaven, he got to stand up for the truth, he got to be a part of God's plan to spread the gospel, and so forth.*] Stephen understood that Jesus is more valuable than anything, even our lives! For believers, even death is an upgrade because we get to be with Jesus forever."