I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

John 8:12
(NIV 1984)
Looking Back at Lesson 10

Peter Tells the Enemies About Jesus
Acts 4:1-23

Aim: What surprised Jesus’ enemies about Peter and his preaching?

Truth: Jesus’ enemies were surprised at how bravely Peter told them about Jesus.

Application: God helps us bravely speak about our Savior.

Response: We ask God to help us bravely tell others about Jesus.

Lesson Summary: When Peter and John were at the temple, Peter used the power of Jesus to heal a man unable to walk. Peter also told people about the Savior. Jesus’ enemies arrested the two disciples and jailed them overnight. When the enemies questioned the men, the Holy Spirit helped Peter bravely speak about the Savior. The enemies freed the men but told them to stop speaking about Jesus. Peter and John clearly stated they would keep preaching about the Savior.

Memory Treasure: Acts 4:20

What did God help Stephen do?

God helped Stephen bravely tell enemies about their sin and the Savior.

Application: God is always with us, helping us.

Response: We ask God to help us bravely speak up for him when others give us a hard time.

Lesson Summary: Jewish leaders arrested a believer named Stephen and brought him to trial because he would not stop teaching about Jesus. As false witnesses told lies about him, Stephen’s face shone like an angel’s. After Stephen bravely told the enemies about their sin and the Savior, he told them he saw heaven opened and Jesus standing there. The enemies dragged Stephen outside the city and stoned him. Even as he died, Stephen prayed for his enemies.

Isaiah 41:10


Dear Lord, thank you for your promise to always be with me. Help me be like Stephen, bravely speaking up for you even when others give me a hard time. Fill my students with faith and love for you, so that they also may boldly share your Word with others. Amen.
WORSHIP  Begin by singing the refrain of Psalm 31 (hymnal, page 77). To help the children understand stronghold, flex your arm muscles. For defense, shield your face with your arm.

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, And he will be my Savior.

You need student lesson pictures from “Jesus and the Catch of Fish” (Lesson 6), and “Peter Tells the Enemies About Jesus” (Lesson 10).

Show the indicated picture as you ask each of the following questions:

• Catch of fish: What did Jesus help his disciples do when they were fishing? [Catch a huge number of fish.]

• Peter and enemies: What did God help Peter bravely do? [Tell enemies about Jesus.]

We have learned about many different things that God helped his people do. In our Bible lesson, we will learn what God helped Stephen do.

Alternate Lesson Plan

Sing the first stanza of “Jesus Loves Me” with the children. Then sing the song for the children, substituting “saves” for “loves.” Remind the children that Jesus has saved them from their sins and that he is with them at all times, even when they die, and will give them heaven.

Draw any or all of the following on the board: training wheels, eyeglasses, a map, and a T–ball stand.

For each item you draw, ask the children what it helps someone do.

• Training wheels. [Learn to ride a bike.]

• Eyeglasses. [See better.]

• A map. [Find a location or learn how to get somewhere.]

• T–ball stand. [Learn how to hit a ball.]

Items like these can help people do different things. In our Bible lesson, we will learn what God helped Stephen do.
Day after day, the disciples bravely preached about Jesus to people. God blessed the work the disciples did, and more and more people believed in Jesus as their Savior from sin. Soon there were so many believers that the disciples needed help with their work. They chose seven men to help them. One of the helpers was a man named Stephen.

God blessed Stephen with a very strong faith and helped him do wonderful miracles. God also helped Stephen bravely tell others about Jesus.

But some people who hated Jesus did not like what Stephen said. They took Stephen as their prisoner and brought in people to tell lies about him. The liars said, “This man speaks against our church and God’s Word.”

When the enemies looked at Stephen, they saw that his face looked like the face of an angel! They asked Stephen, “Are the things these people are saying true?”

Stephen answered the enemies bravely. He said that God loved them but that they did not want to love God. Then he said, “You even killed Jesus, the Son of God.” The enemies were very angry when they heard those words!

Then God did something very special for Stephen. He let Stephen look up into heaven and see the glory of God. “Look!” Stephen said, “I can see into heaven. Jesus is there!”

When the enemies heard this, they covered their ears and began to yell as loudly as they could. Then they rushed at Stephen, grabbed him, and dragged him outside the city.

As you tell the story, pause at appropriate times to have the children:

• hold up and count seven fingers.
• make a cross with index fingers (Stephen told about Jesus).
• make an angry face (enemies were angry when Stephen said they killed Jesus).
• point up to heaven.
• cover ears.
• fold hands (Stephen praying).
• nod head (Saul pleased at Stephen’s death).
• walk in place (believers going to other places).
Then the enemies **picked up stones** and began to **throw** them at **Stephen**. They kept throwing the stones because they **wanted to kill** Stephen.

As the enemies were doing this, **Stephen prayed,** “Lord, please **forgive them.**” Then **Stephen died.**

A man named **Saul** was **watching.** He was **pleased** that **Stephen was dead.** Saul **did not believe** in Jesus as the Savior and **worked very hard** to **stop believers** from **telling others** about him.

Many of the **believers went** to **other places** to **get away** from Saul. **Wherever they went** they **told people about Jesus.** Soon **people in many other towns and cities believed** in Jesus, the Savior from sin.

**Discuss**

**Do** Show the drawing of Stephen.

**Ask** What was the name of one of the seven men chosen to help Jesus’ disciples? **[Stephen.]**

**Say** God was with Stephen and helped him bravely tell others about Jesus.

**Ask** Who took Stephen as their prisoner? **[Some enemies.]**

**Say** The enemies hated Jesus and did not like hearing what Stephen said about him. They had people tell lies about Stephen.

**Do** Draw rays of light coming out from Stephen’s face.

**Ask** What did Stephen’s face look like? **[The face of an angel.]**

**Say** God was with Stephen and helped him bravely tell the enemies about Jesus.

**Ask** What did Stephen say the enemies had done to Jesus? **[Killed him.]**

**Say** Show with your faces how the enemies may have looked when they heard those words. **[All show angry faces.]**

Now show with your eyes what God let Stephen do. **[All look up.]**

**Ask** Whom did Stephen see when he looked into heaven? **[Jesus.]**

**Say** God was helping Stephen. Now show with your hands what the enemies did when they heard Stephen say he saw Jesus. **[All cover ears.]**

**Ask** Who was Stephen? **[A man chosen to help Jesus’ disciples with their work.]**

**Say** God helped Stephen bravely tell people about Jesus.

**Ask** Who did not like what Stephen was doing and saying? **[Some enemies.]**

**Say** Those enemies hated Jesus and did not want Stephen to tell others about him.

**Ask** Who was with Stephen when the enemies took him as their prisoner and had people tell lies about him? **[God.]**

### Copy and Cut Out Heart Puzzle Pieces

Copy and cut out heart puzzle pieces made from **Copy Master 1.** Draw Stephen’s face on the **board** or a piece of **paper.**

- **Do** Have each child draw a cross on a **paper heart.** Explain that this represents faith in Jesus as the Savior that was in the heart of a man named Stephen. As you tell the Bible story, have the children hold up those hearts whenever they hear you mention Stephen’s name.

- **Ask** Who was Stephen? **[A man chosen to help Jesus’ disciples with their work.]**

- **Say** God helped Stephen bravely tell people about Jesus.

- **Ask** Who did not like what Stephen was doing and saying? **[Some enemies.]**

- **Say** Those enemies hated Jesus and did not want Stephen to tell others about him.

- **Ask** Who was with Stephen when the enemies took him as their prisoner and had people tell lies about him? **[God.]**
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**Say** Stephen bravely told the enemies about [Jesus, their Savior].

**Ask** Whom did Stephen see standing in heaven? [Jesus.]

**Say** God was with Stephen, helping him and keeping his faith strong as the enemies gave him a hard time.

**Ask** Who is always with us, helping us? [God.]

**Do** Open a Bible to Isaiah 41:10 and read the passage.

**Say** In his Word, God says that we do not have to be afraid, even during bad times, because he is always with us, helping us.

**Do** Have the children say the passage. Then have Chatter quietly say, “Whew! Am I glad to hear that.” Bring him out and have him greet the children. Then use the puppet skit on the copy master to interact with him.

**Show a cross.**

**Ask** What did Stephen believe about Jesus? [That he is the Savior from sin.]

**Say** God helped Stephen bravely tell the enemies about [their sins and their Savior].

**Do** Say the memory treasure for and then with the children.

**Ask** Why can we bravely speak up when others give us a hard time?

**Ask** What sinful thing did the enemies do to Stephen? [Threw stones at him to kill him.]

**Say** Fold your hands.

**Ask** What did Stephen ask God to do for the enemies? [Forgive them.]

**Say** God was with Stephen, keeping his faith strong.

**Ask** Who is always with us, helping us? [God.]

**Say** God tells us that we don’t have to be afraid because he is always with us.

**Do** Say the memory treasure. Then have the children say the passage with you.

**Ask** Who will be with us and help us as we tell others about the Savior? [God.]

**Say** But sometimes people might give us a hard time.

**Do** Show the puzzle piece with the picture of a boy, and ask what he is doing. [Covering his ears.] Attach that piece to the board.

**Say** Sometimes people might refuse to listen when we try to tell them about Jesus.

**Do** Show the piece that pictures a girl, and ask what she is doing. [Laughing at someone.] Attach that piece next to the first piece.

**Say** Sometimes people might laugh at us or call us names when we try to talk to them about Jesus.

**Do** Attach the final piece of the puzzle.

**Ask** When people give us a hard time for talking about Jesus, what can we do? [Pray to God for help.]

**Say** God is always with us, helping us. So we ask him (point to praying hands) to help us bravely speak up for him when others (point to first two puzzle pieces) give us a hard time.

**CLOSE**

On the board draw a heart and an arrow pointing up.

**Do** Point to the heart. Explain that Stephen’s heart was filled with faith in Jesus as his Savior. Draw a cross inside the heart. Then point to the arrow.

**Ask** What did God allow Stephen to do to help him stay strong? [Look into heaven and see Jesus.]

**Say** God helped Stephen bravely tell the enemies about their sins and their [Savior].
Do Say
Say the memory treasure for and then with the children.

Do God loves us and is always with us. We ask him to help us bravely speak up for him when others give us a hard time.

Pray: Dear God, help us tell others the good news of Jesus, the Savior from sin. When others give us a hard time, remind us that you are with us and will help us bravely speak up for you. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Parent Idea: After you do the first activity on the student lesson, review the prayer Stephen said as the enemies were throwing stones at him. Ask if your child can think of someone else who prayed for his enemies as they were putting him to death? (See Luke 23:34 for the answer.)

Parent Idea: Use the second student lesson activity as a way to share your day with one another and as a reminder that the Lord is always with you, helping you.

Isaiah 41:10
[Because God is always with us, helping us.]

Do Pray: Dear God, thank you for always being with us. Make us brave to tell others about Jesus. Keep us strong even when others laugh at us because we talk about you. Help them listen and believe. Amen.

Optional Midweek Lesson

• Begin with this prayer:
  Even when others don’t want us to,
  Help us, O Jesus, to tell about you. Amen.

• Use Activity 1 under Lesson Activities to review the story.

• Recall that God is always with us, helping us. We ask him to help us bravely speak up for him when others give us a hard time.

Then read and discuss each of the following scenarios:

– Logan and his friends are going to eat their first meal at summer camp. As they wait for their food, Logan bows his head and prays. One of his friends says, “Aw, man, you’re not going to do that at every meal, are you?” Logan knows that God is with him and asks for help. Then Logan smiles and says, “Yes, I am. I like to thank God for the food he gives me.” Why could Logan bravely answer his friend’s question? [He knew God was with him and would help.]
— Dad and Brittany are helping people from church walk through neighborhoods and give people invitations to a special Easter service. A man at one house gets angry with them and says, “Why don’t you church people just leave me alone? I’m perfectly happy the way I am. Now take your invitation and go away.” While walking away Brittany says, “Dad, I don’t think I want to do this anymore. I don’t want to get yelled at again.” What might her Dad say to encourage her? [Possible response: “That man wasn’t very nice, but we shouldn’t stop what we’re doing. As we walk to the next house, let’s ask God to help us be brave and keep inviting people even if some of them are angry or unfriendly.”]

- Pray: Dear God, thank you for your love and care. Help us bravely speak out for you when others give us a hard time. Amen.

- Choose and use the Lesson Activities that best meet the needs of your students.

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**Lesson Activities**

**1. Review**

**Story Props**

*Purpose:* To use questions and props to review the story.

*Procedure:* Give each child a set of pictures made from Copy Master 3. Have the students cut apart the pictures. Then ask one of the following questions, and have the students raise the picture that answers it. Repeat for the remaining questions. Explain that one question will have two answers.

- Who was chosen to help Jesus’ disciples with their work? [Stephen.]
- Who was not afraid to tell about Jesus? [Stephen.]
- Who did not like to hear Stephen telling about Jesus? [Enemies.]
- Who took Stephen as their prisoner? [Enemies.]
- Who had a face that looked like an angel’s face for a while? [Stephen.]
- Who had people tell lies about Stephen? [Enemies.]
- Who did not like hearing about their sin and the Savior? [Enemies.]
- Who looked into heaven and saw Jesus standing there? [Stephen.]
- Who got very angry and threw stones at Stephen to kill him? [Enemies.]
- Who watched while people threw stones at Stephen? [Saul.]
- Who asked God to forgive the enemies? [Stephen.]
- Who were pleased that Stephen died? [Enemies and Saul.]
- Which man worked very hard to stop believers from telling people about Jesus? [Saul.]
2. Application

God Is With Us

Purpose: To identify and discuss times when Jesus is with us.

Procedure: Give each child a duplicate of Copy Master 4. Describe what is happening in each picture, and ask the children if Jesus is with them in such a situation. The situations show:
(1) a child telling about her cross necklace;
(2) a child being laughed at for wearing a religious T-shirt;
(3) a family at church;
(4) a child sharing a Bible story. Have the children either add a Jesus sticker to the box or mark it with a cross to show that Jesus is with them in the situation. [Each box gets a sticker or cross because Jesus is always with us.]

Help to Be Brave

Purpose: To reinforce the truth that God is with us and will help us bravely tell about the Savior.

Procedure: Show a night-light and a stuffed animal. Discuss how those things might help a child be brave during the night if he or she is afraid of the dark. [Lighten the room; help show what’s in the room; have something to snuggle.] Ask who is with us during a dark and scary night even though we cannot see him. [God.]

Lead the children in saying the memory treasure. Explain that God is always with us, helping us. He will help us be brave if we are scared during the night. Have the children name other times God can help them be brave. [During a bad storm; when parents are gone; when getting an immunization; etc.]

Explain that God was with Stephen and helped him bravely speak about the Savior even when the enemies were giving him a hard time. Show a cross and ask who will help us bravely tell about the Savior even when people give us a hard time. [God.]

Suggestion: Teach the following action rhyme as a reminder that God makes us brave to tell others about Jesus.

Not night-lights, not stuffed animals;  
(shake head “no”)  
Just God can make me brave!  
(point up)  
He will help me share the news  
(cup hands around mouth)  
That Jesus came to save.  
(form cross with arms)

3. Music

About the Lord

Purpose: To sing about God making his people brave to tell about Jesus.

Procedure: Teach the following words to the tune of “I’m But a Stranger Here” (hymn 417).

Suggestion: When singing about Peter and Stephen, show student lesson pictures in which they are seen telling the enemies about Jesus.

Peter was brave to speak About the Lord.
Stephen told enemies About the Lord.
God made them brave to tell, And he’ll help us as well The special news to tell About the Lord.

Memory Treasure Song

Purpose: To sing a song based on the memory treasure.

Procedure: Sing the following words to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

I am with you; don’t be scared.  
Don’t be scared; don’t be scared.  
I am with you; don’t be scared.  
I am the Lord your God.
4. Art

Prayer Circle

Purpose: To make a reminder to pray to God for help to speak up for him when others give us a hard time.

Procedure: Give each child a dinner-sized paper plate or a craft foam circle of that size. Have each child glue a copy of the following poem at the bottom of the plate (circle).

Lord, help me bravely speak up for you
No matter what others say or do. Amen.

Then have each child use washable paint to make a handprint in the middle of the plate, keeping fingers together so the handprint looks like one of two praying hands. Let dry. Have each child decorate the edge of the plate to make a frame, punch holes near the top, and add yarn for hanging. Encourage the children to display their prayer circles in prominent areas of their homes as reminders to ask God for help to bravely speak up for him when others give them a hard time.

Variation: Punch holes at even intervals around the outer edge of the plate. Have the children use long yarn pieces to sew around the plate to make a frame.

God Is With Me

Purpose: To illustrate a poem about God being with us.

Procedure: Give each child a copy of Copy Master 5. Read the words in the first box. Then have the children complete the picture according to the directions that follow. Repeat for each of the remaining boxes.

- Box 1: Attach a small adhesive bandage to the knee or draw a bandage.
- Box 2: Attach a paper swing or draw a swing.
- Box 3: Trace the edges of the Bible.
- Box 4: Draw a Bible story book that the child is sharing with a friend.

5. Other Ideas

Work Out the Wiggles

Purpose: To move to a rhyme about God being with us.

Procedure: Say the following rhyme and have the children do the actions:

When I spring and hurt my knee, (rub knee)
I know God is there with me. (point up and then to self)
When swinging from a great big tree, (pretend to swing)
I know God is there with me. (point up and then to self)
When I hear God's Holy Word, (form open book with hands)
I know God is there with me. (point up and then to self)
When I tell about the Lord, (point to mouth)
I know God is there with me. (point up and then to self)

Action Rhyme

Purpose: To learn an action rhyme about the Holy Spirit being with us.

Procedure: Remind the children that God the Holy Spirit is always with us. He helps us by keeping our faith strong and by making us brave to tell others about Jesus. Then teach the following words and actions:

Here, (point to feet)
The, (point away)
Everywhere, (turn around)
The Holy Spirit is with me. (hug self)