

2024 - Family Devo

Mar 24 - a



READ: Acts 7:1-16

Main Idea: Stephen has his moment to make a defense. But he doesn't do as many would. He doesn't focus on his innocence. He speaks about their common history as Jews. Stephen will speak about God's relationship with their people from the time of Abraham. He will slowly lead the council through their history in order to show them how similar they are to their stubborn unbelieving forefathers.

DISCUSS

Children: Stephen chose to testify about Jesus to the Sanhedrin even though they did not like it. He reminded them about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. He tried to make them understand that Jesus' life and death were written in the words they read. Remember, even if others are angry at us for talking about Jesus, we should do it anyway. It might not always be easy, but God will give us strength.

Teen: Can the high priest argue with anything Stephen has said thus far? Does Stephen's defense consist of anything but what is written in scripture? What can we learn from Stephen when it comes to defending the faith?

Adult: Why do you think Stephen began with Abraham on his walk through the history of the Jewish nation? Do you think it got the hearers thinking about how they came to that particular point in time? Which of the lives of these great Jewish men has the most impact on you? Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, or Joseph? Why? If you could ask him one question, what would it be?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Acts 4:12 (ESV)

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."



2024 - Family Devo

Mar 24 - b



READ: Acts 7:17-34

Main Idea: Stephen continues to make his defense speaking about their history as Jews. He speaks about God's promise to Abraham and the twists and turns that occurred as the promise was being carried out. There were numerous challenges along the way for God's people. And even though they did not understand most of it at the time, God continued his eternal and loving plan to bless his people, and eventually all people through Jesus.

DISCUSS

Children: Stephen continues to talk about the leaders of their ancestors from scripture. Remember – at that time they didn't have Bibles. The families didn't have anything to read about God at home. They have to go to the temple to be read to from scrolls. He's trying to make them understand why he's praising Jesus.

Teen: Stephen has continued to recite the history of the Jews. What can you learn about God's timing? What can you learn about God's promises?

Adult: Stephen skips ahead 400 years and begins to move through time more slowly, focusing on Moses' life. Why do you think he spent so much time on Moses and only gave Abraham 7 verses? Do you feel a shift in his sermon at this point? Does it feel like he went from the trials of the early Jewish nation to the people's reaction to a man who was sent to be their deliverer?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

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