

TIMB NH Kids Message Outline: Week 28: 07/28/2024

NT Book: Acts
OT Book: None
Focus: This Is My Church
Theme: The Church Spreads Beyond Jerusalem

Passage: Acts 7:1-8:8
NT Story: Stephen's Martyrdom and the Diaspora

Thematic Points to Hit

- 1.** The message of God, which is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, was not meant for just Israel, but the whole world. (Romans 3:29, Matthew 28:19)
- 2.** A telling of the story of Stephen confronting the Sanhedrin in Acts 7, and his ensuing martyrdom.
- 3.** Despite the fierce resistance of the Jewish leaders at the time who denied Jesus, they could not stop the spread of Jesus. Why? Because Jesus truly was the One sent by God. He truly was the One that Moses talked about and the One the people were supposed to be looking forward to. (Acts 7:35-37, 51-53)
- 4.** Stephen's death launched the persecution of the Christian church in Jerusalem, which ended up causing an even quicker spread of Jesus' name since it sent Christians into other areas nearby. (Acts 8:1-8)
- 5.** Stephen's death shows us a couple things. First, it shows us that God can use anything for His will. While his death was murder, God used it to spread His Kingdom.
- 6.** Stephen shows us the heart of Philippians 1:21. Should the Sanhedrin have listened, then Stephen has won the day by spreading the Kingdom in the moment. But since he died, he is now with Jesus in heaven. Stephen shows us that those who follow Jesus with everything

forsaking everything simply cannot lose.

7. Make mention of a certain character, Saul's, presence at Stephen's death since we will be talking about him next week. (Acts 7:58)

TIMB NH Kids: This Is My Review: Week 28: 07/28/2024

Small Group:

Once you have your group of kids in your room, you may choose to do the following activities in any order you choose.

Game: Infection Tag

The Bible tells us that the early church spread quickly as “the Lord added to the church daily those were being saved.” Take the kids out and illustrate the power of exponential growth through infection tag, the more people that are it, the ball only gets rolling faster and faster.

Craft: Diasporatic Paper

Give each kid a piece of porous paper and set out food coloring. Demonstrate that the food coloring spreads throughout to fill the area its given. Challenge the kids to either make a specific design by strategically placing dye, or to simply make a cool design. Show that as a result of the persecution, as a result of what people meant for harm, the church was given the opportunity to spread even quicker, much like the dye.

Backup Game: Cone Relay

Split the kids up into two teams. Explain that it will be a normal relay race with one kid going at a time, but there are extra rules to make it more challenging. First, they must hunch forward and clasp their hands behind their legs (It should look like they are holding their legs with their back pointing up). Once they are in this position, place a cone on their back. If at any point they drop their cone or loose their clasp, they must hand the cone to the next in line and their journey counts for nothing. The team with the most successful full trips at the end of time wins.

Discussion: Doers of the Word

1. Who is the Gospel meant for? (The whole world! Jesus is the name by which we must be saved and we need to tell everybody about Him! John 3:16, Romans 3:29, Matthew 28:19)
2. Why was Stephen killed by the religious leaders?
3. Why was the Sanhedrin and other resistant groups unsuccessful in quashing the spread of the Gospel?

4. Why was Stephen's death something that actually lead to MORE spread of the Gospel rather than less?
5. Is there anything that God cannot turn around for His will?
6. Is death or the punishment of men something a Christian should fear?
7. What do you know about Saul, the young man who was also present at Stephen's death?