



LESSON 77 SKIT

Principle: Christians face persecution.

Bible Character(s): Stephen and Saul

Scripture Reference: Acts 7:1-8:3



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read through Acts 7:1-8:3.

Stephen was arrested for allegedly blaspheming against God, and made to stand before the Sanhedrin and speak his defense. He boldly turns himself from being the accused into the accuser by proclaiming the disobedience of the men of the Sanhedrin. Stephen spoke of men from the Old Testament in his bold speech, men whose lives pointed to Jesus as the Savior. After a fascinating defense and recount of the events of history in God's plan, Stephen is stoned to death, with his final words being "Lord, don't charge them with this sin." Stephen's character traits, knowledge of scripture, his boldness and his forgiveness are seen in this text. How can we cultivate similar character traits? Do you have situations in your life where you have been bold in sharing your faith and belief in Jesus Christ? If so, come prepared to share with the campers. Give them an opportunity to see how boldness plays out in your life, not just under persecution. Share your own struggles and fears about sharing your faith with others.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

1) Run-through/Prayer

Run-through order of service (assigned parts, transitions, slides for music and skit, video if applicable, etc), assign door greeters, pray, mic check

2) Welcome Cabins

3) Intro Song

4) Camp Competition

Backward Spelling Bee

Have one camp counselor from each cabin come up to the front. Explain that this is a spelling bee - except that they must spell the word backward. They will be given no more than 15 seconds to spell each word. One word per camp counselor for each round. (List of possible words will be provided.) If they spell the words wrong, they're out. The last one standing wins.

5) Worship Set

Worship Connector

How many of you have talked to someone about your faith before? Was it easy or hard to do? (Allow responses.) When you choose to put your faith and trust in Jesus as Savior, you are also commanded by God to share your faith with others. Sharing our faith with others can sometimes be difficult because we might be made fun of, or laughed at. We do not experience persecution in the same way that people in Jesus' time and the early church did, as they were often arrested or physically persecuted, but we still face persecution today for believing and trusting in Jesus. But we can remember that God is with us always, and we can be bold in sharing our faith with others no matter what. As we sing this last song, let's think about how we can obey God's command to share Jesus with others, even if it means being persecuted for it.

6) Skit

Sometimes Christians Are Persecuted

ProPresenter:

None

Props:

None

Roles:

Storyteller

Staff Member #1: Macho Knee Brace - this character is a spoof of "Nacho Libre."

Script:

Storyteller: Welcome to Camp Grace. Let's review a little. We've talked about something that we sometimes call "The Great Commission." This was a job that Jesus gave to the disciples before ascending to heaven. Who can tell me what "The Great Commission" says, in a nutshell? (Allow time for answers.) Right. Now, these words were only for the disciples at the time, right? (Give time to respond. If the campers don't respond, repeat the question.) I just wanted to see if you were paying attention. "The Great Commission" is for all disciples. A disciple is someone who wears a little dress with flat leather sandals and lives in the desert, right? NO! A disciple is anyone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God who died for our sins and rose again, and who follows and trusts in Him.

There was a disciple in the early church named Stephen. A few weeks ago we learned that Christians of the early church shared all of their belongings. Stephen was a guy who helped distribute food to those who needed it. Even though his job was to distribute food, he knew his most important job was to follow "The Great Commission" and tell others about Jesus.

One day when Stephen was speaking to a group about Jesus, the group became very angry. They didn't believe what he was saying and they became so angry that the Bible says they actually gnashed their teeth the way dogs do. I have to say, I don't think I've ever seen anyone that angry. They yelled things at him at the top of their voices and drug him out of the city. They picked up large stones and began to throw them at Stephen. Stephen died that day.

That's a very sad story. Stephen loved others enough to want them to know the truth about Jesus and the people just didn't want to hear the truth. It's frightening to think that when we obey Jesus and tell others about Him, people could laugh at us or even hurt us.

Macho Knee Brace: (From the back of the room) It is I,...Machoooooooo Knee Brace!

Storyteller: **Look everyone! It's Macho Knee Brace!** (Macho jumps onto the stage and demonstrates a few wrestling poses.)

Macho Knee Brace: Yes, it is true. I am Macho Knee Brace. Perhaps you have seen me on TV. Machoooooooooooo.

Storyteller: **What** are you doing here, Macho?

Macho Knee Brace: I must tell you that beneath this suit of a wrestler is a humble cafeteria worker at Camp Grace. I serve the food to the kids in the cafeteria. It is the Lord's work. My life is good. Real good.

Storyteller: Oh my goodness! You're the guy who puts those chips on our leftover meatloaf in the cafeteria. I had no idea that you were actually Macho Knee Brace. By the way, the chips really give the leftovers some flavor.

Macho Knee Brace: They are the Lord's chips. Anyways, I have come to reveal my true identity to you so that together we can work on my plan.

Storyteller: **Your** plan?

Macho Knee Brace: Yes. I have studied this story of Stephen, a humble cafeteria worker, like myself. He, too, was the Lord's servant, telling others the good news. I am very touched by the story. It touches my heart.

Storyteller: You do have a few things in common with Stephen. He did work in food distribution as he served God. But, what plan are you talking about, Macho?

Macho Knee Brace: I will tell you. Stephen was killed for talking about Jesus. Perhaps, if we all practice our wrestling skills, we will not be harmed as Stephen was for telling others about Jesus. Together we could fight the strongest men of the town or even the world who come to persecute us for talking about Jesus. We will win because the Heavenly Father will be in the ring with us. We will get sweats for all the kids. Maybe we will wear masks and stretchy pants...just for fun. Who's with me?

Storyteller: Learning to wrestle from the great Macho Knee Brace would be fun. But, we won't need to wrestle those who don't want to hear about Jesus.

Macho Knee Brace: We won't? Is it because it is in the Bible not to wrestle your neighbor?

Storyteller: Well, that and because we can learn a lot from Stephen. In the Bible, Stephen actually fell to his knees and asked God to forgive those who were stoning him.

Macho Knee Brace: Ahhh, I see. Forgiveness...forgiveness is a difficult thing. It takes more strength than wrestling.

Storyteller: Stephen knew that all he needed to do was obey Jesus and tell others about Him. He knew he could trust God to use it for good.

Macho Knee Brace: So, what you're saying is that I need to obey Jesus by telling others about Him. I can trust that the Lord will use it for good.

Storyteller: Right.

Macho Knee Brace: But how is Stephen's death for the good?

Storyteller: God used Stephen's death in so many ways for good. We're going to learn more about some of those things later. But, one thing was that Saul, who was one of the people who helped kill Stephen and killed other Christians, as well, came to trust in Jesus as his Savior later.

Macho Knee Brace: That's good. It is frightening to think that others might laugh at me or hurt me for telling them about Jesus.

Storyteller: Remember that Jesus promised to never leave us alone. In fact, before the people stoned Stephen, the sky opened up and Stephen saw Jesus. Jesus was right there with Stephen and He's always with us. All we have to do is obey Him and trust Him to use our obedience for good. Let's pray.

Jesus, You are always with us. You promise to never leave us. Help us to believe that. Help us to know that You are walking right with us and we never have to be afraid of anyone. Help us obey You and courageously tell others about You. Amen.



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