

2024 - Family Devo

Mar 31 - a



READ: Acts 7:35-43

Main Idea: Stephen now gets to the point of their history in which the Israelites who God through Moses freed from slavery rebelled. They rejected Moses and wanted to return to Egypt. Even worse, they had Aaron make them a golden calf in which they worshiped in place of the Almighty who had done so much for them.

DISCUSS

Children: Do you remember this story? Aaron was in a tough spot. God's people—thousands of them—wanted a god they could see and touch. They were afraid, out in the wilderness; and God was up on a mountaintop, hidden by clouds. So Aaron did what the crowd wanted: he provided a golden calf that God's people could worship. Mistake. A big one. Lots of things and people have worth. And that's fine. But when we worship someone (or something), we're saying more than that. Only one Someone is worthy of true worship, of being first in our lives, of being our God. And that's . . . God.

Teen: Do we make idols today by putting things before God? What are some things that could easily become idols today?

Adult: What do you think the listeners thought when Stephen made the point in verse 35 that Moses was sent to be a deliverer by God Himself? And that the people rejected Moses? Is Stephen leading them closer to his main point? Do you think they are getting it? Or are they so blinded by their biases, jealousy, and hatred that they cannot see where he is taking them?

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."



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Mar 31 - b



READ: Acts 7:44-53

Main Idea: Stephen will make his point here. He continued the Jews history talking about the tabernacle and later the temple which Solomon built. Then he tells the council how they are exactly like their forefathers who rebelled. He speaks to the very core of the issue, the councils' resistant hard hearts. Just like many before resisted God through his prophets, they are now resisting God through the sending of his son Jesus.

DISCUSS

Children: Do you think those people that wanted Stephen dead listened to what he was saying? He was telling them that they were like the people who didn't listen to the prophets. And who were the prophets? They were the people that God gave the people his messages through. The people didn't listen to the prophets then, and they are ignoring them now. Even though they read the stories, they weren't listening to what God said. They are still ignoring the messages.

Teen: Stephen was speaking some hard truths. What do you think Stephen was trying to get them to understand? From the prophets to Jesus, people refused to believe. Has that changed from Jesus' time to today? What could you learn from Stephen's defense in how to talk to those who refuse to believe?

Adult: Stephen – how to win friends and influence people – NOT! He's been pretty benign to this point of his sermon, drawing a little blood here and there if they are listening closely. Now he's unloading on them. How do you think Stephen's demeanor changed through the course of this sermon? As he built to his conclusion, what picture comes to mind? What is his stance? Is his face passive or is it flaming red? If you had to testify for Christianity, what progression would you take? Would you follow Stephen's lead – given that you probably would not be talking to Jews – but would you start small and build to such a crescendo?

PRAY

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