

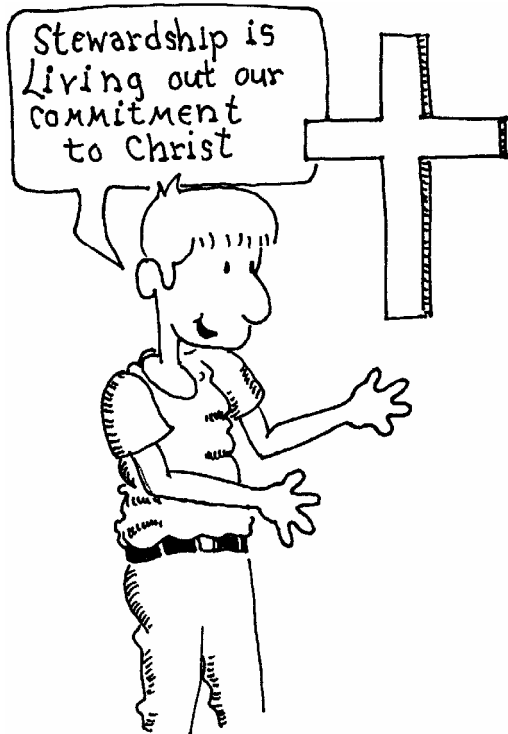
Youth Stewardship

Grades K-6

Dear Sunday School Student,

One of the greatest stewards of the Gospel is a man named Stephen. The Bible describes this man as *"Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, [who] did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people"* (Acts 6:8). Because Stephen used the gifts God gave Him to serve others, he became very well known. People who did not believe in Jesus were not happy about what Stephen was doing, and they *"began to argue with Stephen, but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by Whom he spoke"* (Acts 6:9-10).

If we really think about these words from the Bible, we can find the secret of Stephen's stewardship. First we read that he was *"full of God's grace and power."* Stephen didn't do great things because he was such a great guy. He was able to do great things because he was God's guy! It was God Who helped him to do the wonderful things he did.



Second, the Bible says that his enemies couldn't win an argument with him because of *"his wisdom [and] the Spirit by Whom he spoke."* It wasn't that Stephen was so smart; it was that God told him what to say!

It's the same with us. On our own we can't do much and we don't say much. When we ask God to help us, though, He will help us to serve others, even those we may not like. And He will give us the right words to say so that we can tell others about Jesus.

Let's think about it:

1. The entire story of Stephen is told in Acts chapters 6-7. Have someone skim those two chapters with you, so you can learn more about him.
2. What was Stephen's first job in the Church? (Acts 6:1-6)
3. When the people who didn't like Stephen told lies about Stephen, the Bible tells us that _____ (Acts 6:15).
4. What happened to Stephen? (Acts 7:54-59)

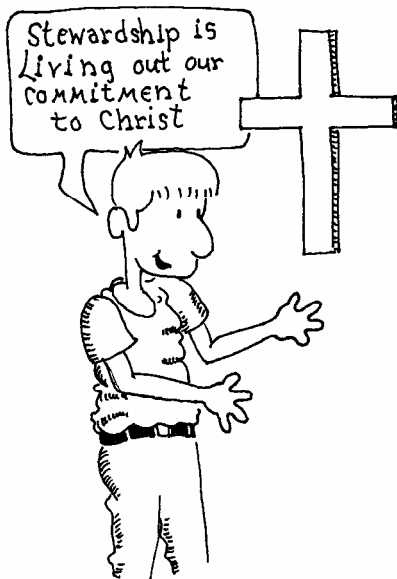
Let's pray: Dear Heavenly Father, when I read Stephen's words and think about how brave he was, I realize that I'm very weak. Yet I know that the same power that Stephen had is in me through Your Word and my Baptism. Forgive me for not always using the chances You give me to tell others about You. Help me to depend on You so that I can be a witness for You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Dear Sunday School Student,

One of the greatest stewards of the Gospel is the man who is also known as the first martyr of the Church. A martyr, as you probably know, is someone who gives up his life for what he believes in. This martyr was a man named Stephen.

The first time we read anything in the Bible about Stephen, he is described as *"Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, [who] did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people"* (Acts 6:8). Not only did he use the gifts God had given Him to serve others, he used his mouth to tell others about God. We know this because the Bible tells us that those who opposed him *"began to argue with Stephen, but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by Whom he spoke"* (Acts 6:9-10).

In these words that the Bible uses to tell us about Stephen we find the secret of Stephen's stewardship. First we read that he was *"full of God's grace and power."* Stephen didn't do great things because he was such a great guy. He was able to do great things because he was God's guy! It was God Who gave him the ability to do the wonderful things he did.



Second, the Bible says that his enemies couldn't win an argument with him because of *"his wisdom [and] the Spirit by Whom he spoke."* It wasn't that Stephen was so smart; it was that God told him what to say!

It's the same with us. On our own we can't do much and we don't say much. When we ask God to help us, though, He will help us to serve others, even those we may not like or have sympathy for. And He will give us the right words to say so that we can witness to our faith in Jesus.

Let's think about it:

1. Read the entire story of Stephen in Acts chapters 6-7.
2. What was Stephen's first job in the Church?
3. What was the cause of the opposition to Stephen? Where did that opposition come from?
4. Read the end of Stephen's sermon in Acts 7:51-53. What effect did these words have on Stephen's listeners?

Let's pray: Dear Heavenly Father, when I read Stephen's words and think about the courage he displayed, I realize that I'm very weak. Yet I know that the same power that Stephen had is in me through Your Word and sacrament. Forgive me for not doing and speaking as You give me opportunity. Help me to depend on You so that I can be a witness for You. In Jesus' name. Amen.