

SCARY Situations



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

A FEW MOMENTS TO PREPARE.



WHO IS THE BRAVEST PERSON YOU KNOW? HOW DO THEY SHOW THEIR BRAVERY?

Sometimes we think people are brave because they are big and strong. Other people may seem brave because of what they do and say.

USE THESE ICONS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THIS WEEK'S LESSON



TALK TOGETHER

Family conversations with God's Word.



MORE TO EXPLORE

Answers to kids' questions.



THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



COLORING PAGE

Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



Stephen was one of the very first Christians. **(Big kids can read about Stephen in Acts chapters 6 and 7.)** He was full of faith and the Holy Spirit and did great wonders and signs. It was obvious God was working through him!



TALK TOGETHER

But not everyone was happy with Stephen. There were men who did not agree with him and began to debate him. These men secretly convinced people to bring a charge against Stephen that he was lying about God! Stephen was brought before the religious leaders, and people said things that weren't true about him. But remember, Stephen was full of faith and the **Holy Spirit***. In Acts, the Bible tells us how Stephen reacted. **Can you help me find Acts chapter 6 verse 15?**

AND GAZING AT HIM, ALL WHO SAT IN THE COUNCIL SAW THAT HIS FACE WAS LIKE THE FACE OF AN ANGEL.

ACTS 6:15



Stephen stayed calm. He didn't panic. Even his face showed his superstrong faith!

How else did Stephen respond? He reminded them about Israel's history and their relationship with God. He finished by telling the religious leaders that God's messengers had been rejected and persecuted throughout Jewish history — and it was happening again.

The religious **leaders*** were furious! How dare he accuse them! But Stephen remained calm and kept his eyes on Jesus. **Let's read Acts chapter 7 verses 55-56 to find out what happened.**

BUT HE, FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, GAZED INTO HEAVEN AND SAW THE GLORY OF GOD, AND JESUS STANDING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. AND HE SAID, "BEHOLD, I SEE THE HEAVENS OPENED, AND THE SON OF MAN STANDING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD."

ACTS 7:55-56

CONT...

TALK
TOGETHER

This made the leaders even angrier. They grabbed Stephen, dragged him out of the city and stoned him. Stephen's final words continued to show his great faith. **Let's read them in Acts chapter 7 verses 59-60.**

AND AS THEY WERE STONING STEPHEN, HE CALLED OUT, "LORD JESUS, RECEIVE MY SPIRIT." AND FALLING TO HIS KNEES HE GRIED OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, "LORD, DO NOT HOLD THIS SIN AGAINST THEM." AND WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS, HE FELL ASLEEP.

ACTS 7:59-60

Stephen chose to focus on God in the face of death. He even prayed for God to forgive the men who were hurting him. He was able to trust God because he knew **God was in control***. If he died, he knew he would be in a better place — in heaven with the Lord forever!

Could Stephen have been brave like that on his own? Probably not. On his own, he may have chosen to run or give in. But he was filled with the Holy Spirit. It was because of God's strength that he could be strong.

When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we receive the same Holy Spirit that Stephen had. We may not be called to die for our faith, but we will face Scary Situations. **God has promised to be with us, and He will give us the same faith, strength and peace Stephen had.**



END OF TALK TOGETHER

MORE TO EXPLORE

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE EARLY CHURCH AFTER STEPHEN'S DEATH?

Instead of silencing Stephen, his accusers actually **spread the Gospel** to more people!

Acts 8:1 says: ... *And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

Because of persecution, the good news of Jesus was spread farther than ever before. This is the exact opposite of what Stephen's accusers wanted. What Satan meant for evil, God **meant for good**. Many people accepted Jesus as their Savior because of this scary situation!

WAS THE APOSTLE PAUL AT THE STONING OF STEPHEN?

Yes, Acts 7:58 says Paul, who was named Saul at the time, watched Stephen be stoned. He is mentioned again in **Acts 8:1-3** as a chief persecutor of the early church. After his conversion, he became one of the strongest voices and leaders of the early church. Your memory verse for the week is from the book he wrote to the Romans. Just like Stephen, Paul was persecuted and understood there is nothing that can ever separate us from God's love!

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT? In the Bible, we read about the one true God (**Deuteronomy 6:4**), Who shows who He is in three different persons in the Bible. We call this the Trinity. It includes God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. In **John 16:7-15**, the Bible tells us more about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, guides us to truth in God's Word and glorifies God. The Trinity is hard to explain and something we won't completely understand until we reach heaven, but we can believe what God says is true!

FOR FURTHER READING:

- Look up **Deuteronomy 31:8** when you feel alone.
- Read more about how God cares for His creation in **Luke 12:6-7**.
- **1 Peter 5:6-7** tells us what to do when we feel anxious.

DEFINITIONS:

• **Blasphemy:** Saying things that are not true about God.

Synagogue: A place where Jewish people gather to worship.

Sanhedrin: The ruling council of the Jewish people when Rome ruled Palestine. They had the authority to rule on all matters with legal, social and religious implications.

★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

♥ MEMORIZE

FOR I AM SURE THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, NOR ANGELS NOR RULERS, NOR THINGS PRESENT NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR POWERS, NOR HEIGHT NOR DEPTH, NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

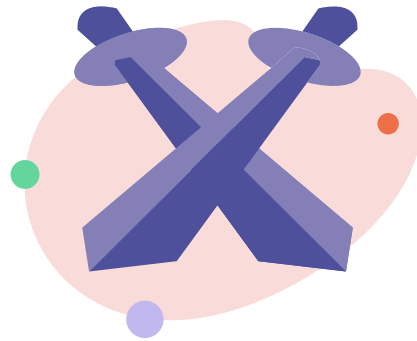
ROMANS 8:38-39

Q: CAN ANYTHING SEPARATE ME FROM GOD'S LOVE?

A: NO

SHARE

Have you ever had to stand up for Jesus in an uncomfortable or scary situation? What did you do or say? How did God help you speak the truth?



PRAY

THANK YOU, **GOD**, FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS. WHEN WE ARE AFRAID, HELP US REMEMBER THAT NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM YOU. PLEASE HELP US TO DEPEND ON YOU TO BE OUR SAFE PLACE AND OUR COMFORT. AMEN.

READ

Read Romans 8:31-39. When we face scary situations in our lives, we can be confident God is for us and that nothing can separate us from His love.

ILLUMINATE

Make a poster with Psalm 56:3 written on it and hang it on the wall by your child's bed. Place a flashlight on their nightstand. When they wake up frightened at night, they can shine their flashlight on the poster and remember to put their trust in God.

MY ROCK

Help your child write a word that represents what they are afraid of on one side of a small rock. Then, read Psalm 18:1-3. On the other side of the rock, write "God is my Rock!" Pray with your child that God will help them to not be afraid. Put the rock somewhere to remind your child God is their rock!

CREATE

Have your child write "GOD IS WITH ME!" on the outside of a jar. (They can decorate the jar to make it fancy, or they can leave it plain.) Every time your child is afraid, they can write a short prayer to God and put it in the jar as a reminder that God is with them in their scary situation.



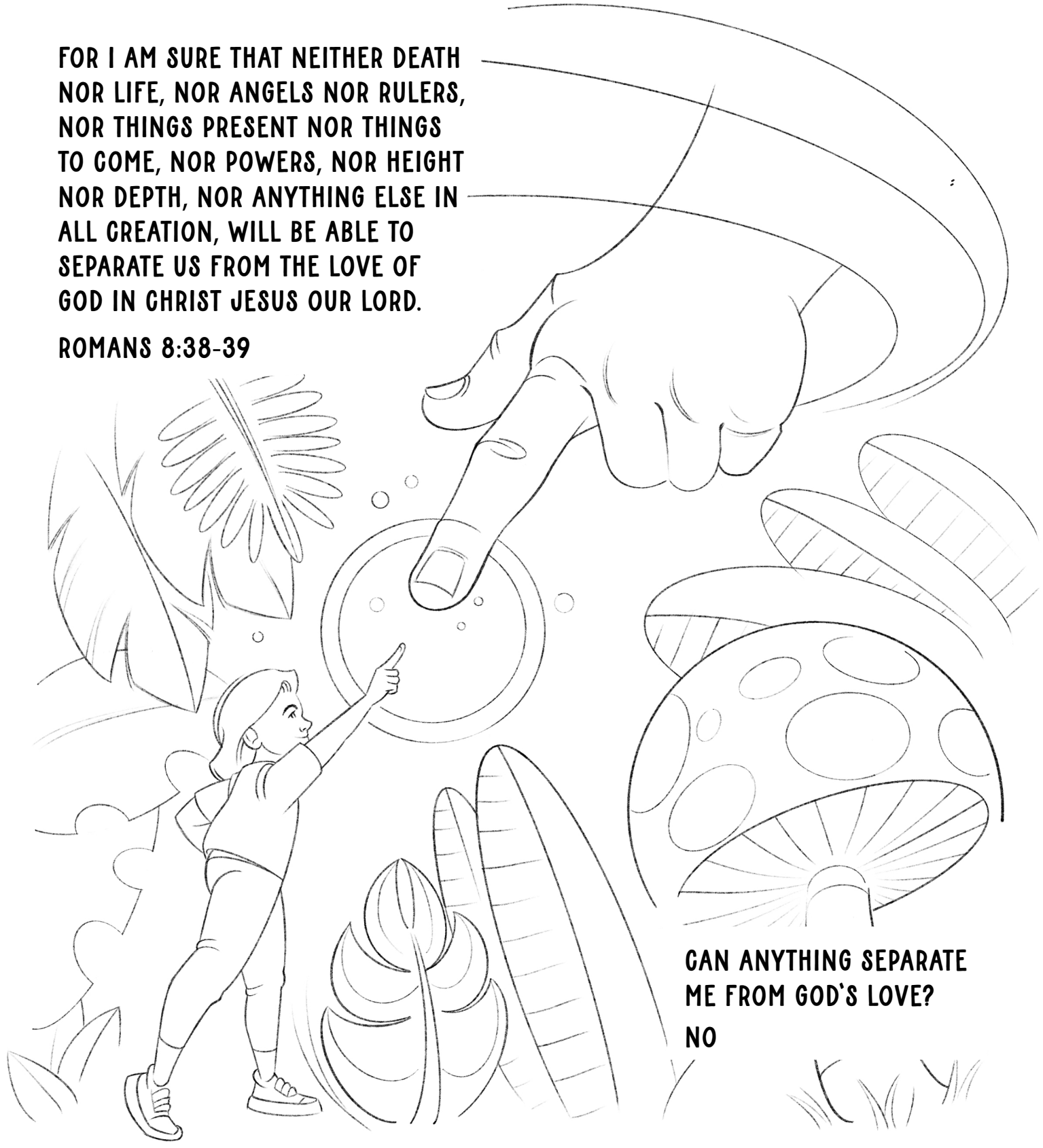
SCAN HERE TO LISTEN WHEREVER YOU ARE!

SING

Listen to this playlist to remember God is with us, even in Scary Situations!

**FOR I AM SURE THAT NEITHER DEATH
NOR LIFE, NOR ANGELS NOR RULERS,
NOR THINGS PRESENT NOR THINGS
TO COME, NOR POWERS, NOR HEIGHT
NOR DEPTH, NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN
ALL CREATION, WILL BE ABLE TO
SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF
GOD IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.**

ROMANS 8:38-39



**CAN ANYTHING SEPARATE
ME FROM GOD'S LOVE?**

NO

NAME _____