

**Saint Stephen Puppet Show***(this show follows the show on St. Peter)**Acts 7:60 “And he knelt down and cried in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’”*

<b>Billy</b>	Hi Susie!
<b>Susie</b>	Hi Billy! You look happy today!
<b>Billy</b>	I am! I had a great day!
<b>Susie</b>	Tell me about it.
<b>Billy</b>	Well, I told some kids about Jesus and they laughed at me.
<b>Susie</b>	That’s a great day?
<b>Billy</b>	It sure is! Remember how Saint Peter died for telling the truth about Jesus’ Way of Love?
<b>Susie</b>	Yes. He was a true hero. He died for the Faith.
<b>Billy</b>	Well, I got to tell the truth to a whole bunch of kids and all they did was call me names. <i>(laughs)</i> Isn’t that funny?
<b>Susie</b>	Wow. When you think about it, it IS kind of funny.
<b>Billy</b>	I gave them the GOOD WORD of Jesus’ love and they gave me some dopey words!
<b>Susie</b>	<i>(laughs)</i> Wow, Billy. You don’t even seem angry with them.
<b>Billy</b>	I am, a little. It hurt my feelings. I was trying to help them and they laughed at me. But I thought about Saint Peter dying for the Faith and how much courage he had and... well... it just cheered me right up!
<b>Susie</b>	I am so impressed with you. You remind me of the first Christian martyr, Saint Stephen.
<b>Billy</b>	What’s a martyr?
<b>Susie</b>	A martyr is a person who dies for the something important, like the Faith.
<b>Billy</b>	<i>(laughs)</i> But I sure didn’t die for it. I just got my feelings hurt a little.
<b>Susie</b>	But you suffered, didn’t you?
<b>Billy</b>	Yes, a little. I offered it up to God.
<b>Susie</b>	Wow. Cool.
<b>Billy</b>	So what about this Saint Stephen? Who was he?
<b>Susie</b>	Let’s go back and see. He hung around with Saint Peter, you know.
<b>Billy</b>	Saint Peter! Cool! Let’s GO! <i>(they hold hands)</i>

<b>Susie</b>	Saint Stephen, dear martyr, please show us the way to forgive those who hurt Billy's feelings today! <i>(they fall backward and disappear as Peter appears, along with the Guys – the other apostles, who take turns speaking and often overlap)</i>
<b>Peter</b>	Okay, guys. We've got a problem.
<b>Guys</b>	Yes, Peter? What is it?
<b>Peter</b>	All the Christians are selling their houses and animals and giving us the money so we can share it all together.
<b>Guys</b>	That's a problem?
<b>Peter</b>	No. That's actually really <i>cool</i> . Everybody wants to share. No, our problem is that it's taking us a lot of time every day to get food for everyone with the money and make sure all the new Christians have a place to live. We don't have any time left for teaching about Jesus!
<b>Guys</b>	Yeah. You're right. We spend all our time feeding people and finding places for them to live.
<b>Peter</b>	So, let's take a vote and choose some of our new Christians to take over all this important work, so we can get back to teaching and preaching about Jesus.
<b>Guys</b>	Good idea. Yeah, right. That's why he's the boss! Let's do it.
<b>Peter</b>	Okay. Any suggestions?
<b>Guys</b>	Stephen is cool. Yeah. Stephen. He's really cool.
<b>Other Guy</b>	Which one is he?
<b>Guys</b>	He's that dude with a face like an angel.
<b>O. Guy</b>	Oh, yeah. I remember him. He does look like an angel.
<b>Peter</b>	That's because he's filled with the Holy Spirit. That's why his face shines like that.
<b>Guys</b>	Woa. That is cool. Yeah, cool. A face like an angel.
<b>Peter</b>	Okay. Stephen, come on over here! <i>(Stephen enters)</i>
<b>Stephen</b>	Oh, hey. How're ya doing, Peter?
<b>Peter</b>	Great. Thanks for asking. Hey, we need your help taking care of all the new Christians.
<b>Stephen</b>	Cool. I'll do my best. That way you guys can get back to teaching us about Jesus.
<b>Peter</b>	Exactly.
<b>Guys</b>	Yeah, right on, man.

<b>Stephen</b>	I guess I'd better get busy.
<b>Peter</b>	We'll send some other guys to help you.
<b>Stephen</b>	Oh, thanks! Bye!
<b>Guys</b>	Bye! See ya later! Thanks a lot!
<b>Peter</b>	Great guy. And that face!
<b>Guys</b>	Yeah, you got that right. Just like an angel. That Stephen is one cool dude. <i>(they exit, the children reappear)</i>
<b>Billy</b>	So, Stephen got to learn about Jesus from Saint Peter?
<b>Susie</b>	He sure did. And the Bible says that the Holy Spirit of God was strong in Stephen and that he worked many wonders and signs.
<b>Billy</b>	You mean miracles?
<b>Susie</b>	Yep.
<b>Billy</b>	What kind?
<b>Susie</b>	The Bible doesn't say, exactly. Just that God's power was strong in him.
<b>Billy</b>	Excellent. And his face was all glow-y like an angel.
<b>Susie</b>	And Stephen really listened to Saint Peter and the other Apostles and became very good at teaching others about Jesus, too!
<b>Billy</b>	Wow. Stephen was cool. I guess sometimes even listening and learning are ways to become a saint.
<b>Susie</b>	That's right. In fact, he got so good at talking about God that it made some people mad.
<b>Billy</b>	Why were they mad?
<b>Susie</b>	Well, remember when those kids made fun of you?
<b>Billy</b>	I sure do.
<b>Susie</b>	Well, sometimes people don't like it when we talk about Jesus, so they do mean things.
<b>Billy</b>	Like calling people mean names.
<b>Susie</b>	Yes. And that's what happened to Saint Stephen. In those days, the worst thing a Jewish person could be called was a blasphemer.
<b>Billy</b>	What is a blasphemer?
<b>Susie</b>	That's someone who says terrible things about God.
<b>Billy</b>	What? Who would do a thing like that?
<b>Susie</b>	I don't know. Now Stephen was <i>not</i> a blasphemer, but some people who didn't like him went around saying that he was.

<b>Billy</b>	That's LYING!
<b>Susie</b>	Yes, and they were lying on purpose, just so Stephen would be arrested.
<b>Billy</b>	Woa. That's cold.
<b>Susie</b>	Yep. So they lied about Stephen and he got arrested. Come on. Let's go and see what happened. <i>(they join hands)</i> Saint Stephen the martyr, please show us the way to forgive those who hurt us in any way! <i>(they disappear, Saint Stephen and two bad guys and a priest appear)</i>
<b>Bad 1</b>	This guy is a blasphemer!
<b>Bad 2</b>	But look at him, dude. He looks like an angel.
<b>Bad 1</b>	Shhhh! Be quiet. You're not supposed to say nice things about him.
<b>Bad 2</b>	Oh, right. Sorry, dude. This guy is bad news, boss.
<b>Bad 1</b>	And he says Jesus is going to come back from the dead and beat you up.
<b>Priest</b>	Oh! This is terrible!
<b>Bad 1</b>	Yeah. And mess up the temple.
<b>Priest</b>	No! <i>(he gasps at the next few)</i>
<b>Bad 2</b>	Yeah. And break all the walls down.
<b>Bad 1</b>	Yeah. And change all the rules and make us eat really yucky food.
<b>Bad 2</b>	Yeah. And make everybody wear orange hats and walk backwards.
<b>Priest</b>	Wait a minute... <i>(starting to suspect something)</i>
<b>Bad 1</b>	Yeah. And take away all our knives and forks and make us eat like ANIMALS.
<b>Bad 2</b>	Really?
<b>Bad 1</b>	Yeah.
<b>Bad 2</b>	Cool.
<b>Bad 1</b>	<i>(slaps him)</i> It is not cool.
<b>Bad 2</b>	Is so. <i>(pushing each other back and forth)</i>
<b>Bad 1</b>	Isn't.
<b>Bad 2</b>	Is.
<b>Bad 1</b>	Isn't.
<b>Bad 2</b>	IS.
<b>Bad 1</b>	IS INT.
<b>Bad 2</b>	IS, TOO!
<b>Bad 1</b>	IS NOT!

<b>Bad 2</b>	I hate you. ( <i>growls</i> )
<b>Bad 1</b>	I hate you more. ( <i>growls, puts his face up to other guy, barks like a dog. They keep growling and barking at each other until the Priest breaks it up</i> )
<b>Priest</b>	Okay break it up you... you... you doggy brains!!!  ( <i>the two Baddies snarl at each other quietly</i> )  ( <i>sighs</i> ) Alright now, Stephen is it?
<b>Stephen</b>	That's me.
<b>Priest</b>	Is any of this true?
<b>Stephen</b>	Let me put it to you this way. People like you are not actually interested in the truth.
<b>Priest</b>	Excuse me?
<b>Stephen</b>	The Holy Spirit of God is trying to speak to you through me.
<b>Priest</b>	Now wait just a minute, there, you angel-faced blasphemer...
<b>Stephen</b>	And you don't want to listen. God speaks and you cover your ears!
<b>Priest</b>	What?
<b>Stephen</b>	You heard me. Every prophet that has tried to tell you about God has been dragged off and killed.
<b>Priest</b>	Those were dangerous blasphemers!
<b>Stephen</b>	No, they were holy men, like ME.
<b>Priest</b>	Why I oughta... ( <i>he looks around for some way to retort, fails</i> )
<b>Stephen</b>	( <i>looking up to heaven</i> ) Look! The glory of heaven! It is Jesus! He's standing at the right hand of God! I can see Him! Look!
<b>Priest</b>	( <i>plugging his ears and humming "Mary had a little lamb"</i> )
<b>Stephen</b>	You're plugging your ears.
<b>Priest</b>	What?
<b>Stephen</b>	You're PLUGGING YOUR EARS!
<b>Priest</b>	WHAT?!!!
<b>Stephen</b>	YOU'RE PLUGGING YOUR EARS!!!!!!!
<b>Priest</b>	WHAT?!!! ( <i>takes his hands down from his head as Stephen screams</i> )
<b>Stephen</b>	YOU ARE PLUGGING YOUR EARS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
<b>Priest</b>	OW!!! OW!!! My ears! You hurt my ears with your nasty-man screaming!!!!
<b>Stephen</b>	Oh brother.

<b>Bad 1</b>	Let's get him.
<b>Bad 2</b>	Yeah, let's get him.
<b>Bad 1</b>	Ear screamer!
<b>Bad 2</b>	Blasphemer!
<b>Bad 1</b>	Cool rhyme.
<b>Bad 2</b>	Yeah. ( <i>laughs</i> ) Ear screamer! Blasphemer!
<b>Bad 1/2</b>	Ear screamer! Blasphemer! Ear screamer! Blasphemer!
<b>Priest</b>	Would you just get him out of here, please?
<b>Bad 1</b>	Oh, sure, Boss.
<b>Bad 2</b>	Let's ROCK this bad boy.
<b>Bad 1</b>	Yeah. Let's rock him. ( <i>both singing</i> ) We will, we will rock you! We will we will rock you! ( <i>they drag Saint Stephen off and disappear, Billie and Susie reappear</i> )
<b>Billy</b>	So, did Saint Stephen die?
<b>Susie</b>	Yes, but before he died, he looked up to heaven and prayed to Jesus, saying, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."
<b>Billy</b>	He forgave them?
<b>Susie</b>	Yes.
<b>Billy</b>	Wow. I don't think I could forgive someone for throwing rocks at me.
<b>Susie</b>	I don't think I could either.
<b>Billy</b>	How do you think Stephen did it?
<b>Susie</b>	It must have been God's power.
<b>Billy</b>	God's power again!
<b>Susie</b>	Yes. There's a great scripture in the Bible which says, "I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me." ( <i>Phil 4:13</i> )
<b>Billy</b>	So, if we trust in Jesus, we might some day have the same courage Stephen had?
<b>Susie</b>	You bet.
<b>Billy</b>	Wow. The courage to forgive. I'm going to start asking Jesus to give that superpower to me! And I'm going to ask Saint Stephen to pray for me, too!
<b>Susie</b>	Great idea! See ya tomorrow!
<b>Billy</b>	Bye! ( <i>looks up to heaven</i> ) Thank you Jesus for giving us your power to forgive. ( <i>exits</i> )