Saint Stephen Puppet Show
(VBS time travel series: 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.'"

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

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Billy	Saint Peter! Cool! Let's GO! (*they hold hands*)
Susie	Saint Stephen, dear martyr, please show us the way to forgive those who hurt Billy's feelings today! (*they fall backward and disappear as Peter appears, along with the Guys—the other apostles—who take turns speaking and often overlap*)
Peter	Okay, guys. We've got a problem.
Guys	Yes, Peter? What is it?
Peter	All the Christians are selling their houses and animals and giving us the money so we can share it all together.
Guys	That's a problem?
Peter	No. That's actually really ***cool***. 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!
Guys	Yeah. You're right. We spend all our time feeding people and finding places for them to live.
Peter	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.
Guys	Good idea. Yeah, right. That's why he's the boss! Let's do it.
Peter	Okay. Any suggestions?
Guys	Stephen is cool. Yeah. Stephen. He's really cool.
Other Guy	Which one is he?
Guys	He's that dude with a face like an angel.
O. Guy	Oh, yeah. I remember him. He does look like an angel.
Peter	That's because he's filled with the Holy Spirit. That's why his face shines like that.
Guys	Woah. That is cool. Yeah, cool. A face like an angel.
Peter	Okay. Stephen, come on over here! (*Stephen enters*)
Stephen	Oh, hey. How're ya doing, Peter?
Peter	Great. Thanks for asking. Hey, we need your help taking care of all the new Christians.
Stephen	Cool. I'll do my best. That way you guys can get back to teaching us about Jesus.

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

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

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Bad 2	IS.
Bad 1	IS INT.
Bad 2	IS, TOO!
Bad 1	IS NOT!
Bad 2	I hate you. (*growls*)
Bad 1	I hate you more. (*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*)
Priest	Okay break it up you… you… you doggy brains!!! (*the two Baddies snarl at each other quietly*) (*sighs*) Alright now, Stephen is it?
Stephen	That's me.
Priest	Is any of this true?
Stephen	Let me put it to you this way. People like you are not actually interested in the truth.
Priest	Excuse me?
Stephen	The Holy Spirit of God is trying to speak to you through me.
Priest	Now wait just a minute, there, you angel-faced blasphemer...
Stephen	And you don't want to listen. God speaks and you cover your ears!
Priest	What?
Stephen	You heard me. Every prophet that has tried to tell you about God has been dragged off and killed.
Priest	Those were dangerous blasphemers!
Stephen	No, they were holy men, like ME.
Priest	Why I oughta… (*he looks around for some way to retort, fails*)
Stephen	(*looking up to heaven*) Look! The glory of heaven! It is Jesus! He's standing at the right hand of God! I can see Him! Look!
Priest	(*plugging his ears and humming "Mary had a little lamb")*
Stephen	You're plugging your ears.
Priest	What?
Stephen	You're PLUGGING YOUR EARS!
Priest	WHAT?!!!

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Stephen	YOU'RE PLUGGING YOUR EARS!!!!!!!
Priest	WHAT?!!! (*takes his hands down from his head as Stephen screams*)
Stephen	YOU ARE PLUGGING YOUR EARS!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Priest	OW!!! OW!!! My ears! You hurt my ears with your blaspheming screaming!!!!
Stephen	Oh brother.
Bad 1	Let's get him.
Bad 2	Yeah, let's get him.
Bad 1	Ear screamer!
Bad 2	Blasphemer!
Bad 1	Cool rhyme.
Bad 2	Yeah. (*laughs*) Ear screamer! Blasphemer!
Bad 1/2	Ear screamer! Blasphemer! Ear screamer! Blasphemer!
Priest	Would you just get him out of here, please?
Bad 1	Oh, sure, Boss.
Bad 2	Let's ROCK this bad boy.
Bad 1	Yeah. Let's rock him. (*both singing*) We will, we will rock you! We will we will rock you! (*they drag Saint Stephen off and disappear, Billie and Susie reappear*)
Billy	So, did Saint Stephen die?
Susie	Yes, but before he died, he looked up to heaven and prayed to Jesus, saying, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."
Billy	He forgave them?
Susie	Yes.
Billy	Wow. I don't think I could forgive someone for throwing rocks at me.
Susie	I don't think I could either.
Billy	How do you think Stephen did it?
Susie	It must have been God's power.
Billy	God's power again!
Susie	Yes. There's a great scripture in the Bible which says, "I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me." (*Phil 4:13*)
Billy	So, if we trust in Jesus, we might some day have the same courage Stephen had?

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Susie	You bet.
Billy	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!
Susie	Great idea! See ya tomorrow!
Billy	Bye! (*looks up to heaven*) Thank you Jesus for giving us your power to forgive. (*exits*)

The End

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