

LarryBoy and the Rumor Weed



What is the STORY about?

Any rumors caught your ear lately? Junior Asparagus and Laura Carrot learn just how easily rumors get started when they accidentally launch a whopper about LarryBoy's butler, Alfred. Before they know it, their little story is spreading all over Bumblyburg like a weed! Can LarryBoy stop the rumor before Alfred gets hurt? Can anyone stop the rumor before LarryBoy gets hurt?! In the end, the kids learn that God doesn't want us to tell stories that can hurt. He wants us to spread nice words!

- *A Lesson in the Power of Words*
- *Key Passage: Acts 6 and 7 (A Lesson-related Bible story)*
- *Running time: 35 minutes*



What do you THINK?

- *How did the rumor about Alfred being a robot get started? (Junior and Laura heard Alfred say that he needed to "recharge his batteries")*
- *Who started spreading the rumor to everyone in Bumblyburg? (The Rumor Weed)*
- *What happened as the rumor spread? (The Rumor Weed started to grow and take over the whole town)*
- *How was the Rumor Weed stopped? (The citizens of Bumblyburg started saying nice things about Alfred)*
- *What happened to the weed when nice things were said? (It turned into beautiful flowers)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The story of Stephen and the POWER OF WORDS that were used against him can be found in Acts 6 and 7. Tell the condensed version below OR read from a Bible translation that is easy for the children to follow.

Stephen was blessed by God and was given the power to do great miracles and wonders among the people. However, there were some Jewish men who did not like Stephen—they became angry and argued with him. But they were no match for his wisdom and could not stand up against the words the Holy Spirit had given him. This upset the Jewish teachers of the law, so they secretly convinced some men to spread rumors about Stephen. They told lies about him that stirred up the people and turned them against Stephen. These men seized Stephen and took him before the Jewish leaders where they brought in the men to tell lies and rumors about him. While he was sitting among his accusers, all of the people were watching Stephen closely. They saw that his face was shining like the face of an angel. The high priest asked Stephen if the accusations against him were true. Stephen began to preach about Jesus to these enemies who had falsely accused him. He told how their fathers had disobeyed God just as they were now refusing to listen to God's ministers. When God sent His son Jesus, he accused them of hanging him on the cross. Of course, these Jewish leaders were furious when they heard the words of Stephen. They covered their ears and shouted loudly, and they all rushed to Stephen and dragged him out of the city. They threw stones at him until he was dead. While the men were throwing stones, Stephen prayed for Jesus to receive his spirit and asked that this sin not be held against them.

The Story of Stephen



ACTIVITY

Talk about the meaning of the word “rumor” and have some fun making a “Rumor Weed” that grows. Make a sample before class to show the children and then demonstrate how to a “Rumor Weed” with newspapers. Begin by rolling (not loosely) one large sheet of newsprint on one of the shorter sides until about three or four inches are left unrolled. Slip in another piece of newsprint where you stopped rolling and continue to roll. Repeat the rolling process using four or five pieces of newspaper. Secure the bottom three-fourths of the roll with tape. Make several tears or cuts (4-5 inches in length) on the top end of the roll, penetrating through all the thicknesses. Gently pull upwards on the center strip of paper and watch your “Rumor Weed” grow!



What can we DO?

Gather the children in a circle for a game of “Telephone.” Whisper a sentence or two into one child’s ear (only once) and have that child whisper the message into the next child’s ear. Continue passing the message around through whispers until it returns to the person who started the sentence. Tell the original message and note how the words were distorted or changed as they were repeated around the circle. Encourage conversation with the following questions.

- How do rumors get “blown up?”
- Why are rumors dangerous?
- How would you feel if someone started a rumor about you?
- What should we do when someone tells us a rumor or a piece of gossip?

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **Leviticus 19:16** “Do not go about spreading slander among your people.”
- **Ephesians 4:29** “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

3 Things to remember about Stephen

1. Stephen was filled with the **HOLY SPIRIT**
2. The Jewish teachers and leaders spread **RUMORS** about him
3. Stephen forgave the men who **STONED** him to death

KEY VERSE

(Proverbs 12:18) “Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

KEY NUGGET

God doesn’t want us to tell stories that can hurt people—He wants us to spread nice words.

