



# DIGGING DEEPER

## Suffer Well

May 17th, 2026

### Digging Deeper

#### Discussion Questions:

##### LEAN IN

Describe a season where you were trying to do the right thing, follow God faithfully, or walk in integrity — yet still experienced pain, opposition, disappointment, or misunderstanding. How did that season affect your faith and perspective on God?

##### LOOK UP

#### Main Passage:

Acts 6:8–15; 7:51–60; 8:1–3

#### Observation (What does the text say?)

- What stands out to you most about Stephen in these passages?
- What repeated phrases or descriptions do you notice about Stephen?
- How do the religious leaders respond to Stephen's message?
- What do you notice about Stephen's posture, words, and attitude while suffering?
- **What role does the Holy Spirit play throughout these passages?**

#### Interpretation (What does the passage mean?)

- What do you learn about God through Stephen's suffering?
- Why do you think Luke emphasizes that Stephen was "full of the Holy Spirit"?
- What does Stephen's response teach us about forgiveness?

- Why do you think suffering and opposition are such recurring themes in the early church?
- **What does Stephen’s vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God communicate to suffering believers?**

### **Application (What’s my response?)**

- How are you encouraged, challenged, or convicted by Stephen’s example?
- When pressure hits your life, what tends to come out of you?
- What would it look like for you to “suffer well” in your current season?
- **Who is watching how you persevere right now, and how might your response become a witness to them?**
- **Is there someone you need to forgive so bitterness does not define your story?**

### **Reflective Questions**

- Read 1 Peter 4:12–14. How does this passage reshape the way Christians should think about suffering and opposition?
- Read Hebrews 12:2–3. What does it practically mean to “fix our eyes on Jesus” during difficult seasons?
- Have you been more focused lately on what you lack or on what you are full of?
- Where is God inviting you to trust Him even when the path is painful or unclear?

### **Scripture**

- Acts 6:8–15
- Acts 7:51–60
- Acts 8:1–3
- Proverbs 3:5–6
- 1 Peter 4:12–14
- Hebrews 12:2–3
- Job 1:21
- Philippians 3:10–11
- Romans 8:18

## **Prayer**

### **Prayer Guide for Groups**

Spend time praying through these prompts together:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what is filling your heart in this season.

- Pray for strength to remain faithful in suffering, opposition, or disappointment.
- Ask God to help you forgive those who have wounded, betrayed, or hurt you.
- Ask God to use your testimony and perseverance as a witness to others.

## **Practice**

### **STEP OUT**

1. Identify one difficult situation or relationship where you need to intentionally “suffer well” this season. Ask the Holy Spirit daily to help you respond with grace, truth, and self-control instead of bitterness or fear.
2. Spend time each day meditating on Hebrews 12:2–3. Before reacting to pressure, pause and refocus your attention on Jesus.
3. Reach out to someone walking through suffering this week. Encourage them, pray for them, or simply be present with them. Let your presence remind them they are not alone.