

R U N
are you in?

LifeGroups
get connected.

TRANSFORMATION

"And we... are being transformed into His likeness."

2 Corinthians 3:18

CHETS TOP 5

Men's Fall
Football Classic
August 25th, 5:30 p.m.

Beach Baptism
Sunday, August 29th
6:00 p.m.

"Follow Me to
LifeGroup" Month
& T-shirt sales
Month of August

Parenting on
Purpose
Conference
Saturday, September 11th
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Chets Chicks
Upcoming Events
Retreat
Friday & Saturday,
October 1st & 2nd
Bible Studies Begin
August 30th & 31st
Mentoring Coffee
September 19th & 26th



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Volume XI No. 33

Discussion Guide

Life Sentences - "Stephen"

FOCUS: To examine the faithfulness of Stephen and be challenged to live for the cause of Christ even unto death.

"Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life." Revelation 2:10 (NIV)

1. What situation in the church resulted in the establishment of servants (deacons) in the early church? (Acts 6:1-6)
2. List the characteristics of the original deacons. (Acts 6:3)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
3. What angered the Jews about Stephen? (Acts 6:8-14)
4. How did Stephen establish a positive rapport with his listeners? (v. 2a)
5. How do you find common ground with someone, even when they are hostile towards you?
6. What is the overall pattern or strategy behind Stephen's speech?
7. Find examples in (Acts 7) that support the following major themes of Stephen's speech.

<u>Major Themes</u>	<u>Scripture References</u>
God was not limited to a building	
Israel had rejected the deliveries God had sent	
Israel had disregarded the Law	
8. What should you do when you are rejected after delivering the Gospel of hope to a non-believer?
9. How much perseverance do you have when confronted about your beliefs?
10. Complete the following chart to compare/contrast Stephen's attitude with the Sanhedrin:

<u>Stephen (Full of the Holy Spirit)</u>	<u>Sanhedrin (Full of Hate)</u>
(Acts 7:55-56) Extreme control	(Acts 7:54)
(Acts 7:59) Extreme faith calling out to the Lord	(Acts 7:57)
(Acts 7:60) Extreme Forgiveness	(Acts 7:58)
11. How was Stephen's reaction and response similar to Christ as He endured the crucifixion?
12. Could you be loving and forgiving of someone who is trying to harm you? What does it take to develop that level of spiritual maturity?
13. How did God redeem the stoning of Stephen and the persecution of the church?
14. How has God "scattered" your church?
15. In what hostile setting could you be a witness this week? How?
16. Stephen was faithful even unto death. How can you remain faithful to the cause of Christ this week?

Read Thru the Bible

"How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey. Your commandments give me understanding; no wonder I hate every false way of life. Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."

Psalm 119:103-105

Aug/Sept	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalm	Proverbs
29	Job 11:1-13:12	I Cor. 4:14-5:13	104:16-23	21:12-14
30	Job 13:13-15:13	I Cor. 6:1-20	104:24-30	21:15-16
31	Job 15:14-17:16	I Cor. 7:1-24	104:31-35	21:17-19
1	Job 18:1-20:11	I Cor. 7:25-40	105:1-6	21:20-21
2	Job 20:12-21:34	I Cor. 8:1-9:12	105:7-15	21:22-24
3	Job 22:1-24:12	I Cor. 9:13-10:5	105:16-27	21:25-26
4	Job 24:13-27:23	I Cor. 10:6-24	105:28-36	21:27-28
5	Job 28:1-30:8	I Cor 10:25-11:16	105:37-45	21:29-31

LifeGroup Prayer Requests:

"You are not responsible for everyone in the church family - but you are responsible to them. So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

LOOKING TOWARD NEXT SUNDAY

"Get Uncomfortable"

For the next few weeks we will be looking at how we can continue to be aware of and address social injustice and needs across our community and the world.

MONDAY - AUGUST 30, 2010

Read Zechariah 7:9-10a

9 "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. 10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.'

As we begin this study on serving the poor and the oppressed of this world, how much have you been able to do this?

How would you rate your self in an awareness of addressing the needs of the poor, the homeless, and others like this in the world? (1-10 with 10 being the highest)

TUESDAY - AUGUST 31, 2010

Read Micah 6:6-8

6 With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? 8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

What does the following phrase mean to you: A mature believer develops what I call a “healthy sense of self forgetfulness” rather than an unhealthy preoccupation with self?

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

Read Romans Chapter 12

1Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. 3For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. 9Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. (not all verses printed due to space)

On Sunday part of the discussion will be from this Chapter. How does this chapter apply to our responsibility to meet the needs of the poor and the oppressed?

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 2, 2010

Read James 1:22-25

22Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

How does this passage describe a Christ follower who knows what God expects but chooses not to respond?

FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 3, 2010

We will be praying each week for ministries we are helping during Impact Jax: Here is who you can pray for today:

First Coast Women's Services www.fcws.org - First Coast Women's Services is committed to offering truthful information and support to individuals facing unplanned pregnancies.

Seamark Ranch www.seamarkranch.com Seamark Ranch is a Christ Centered children's home that is committed to sharing the Gospel, hope, healing and a brighter future to abused, neglected, abandoned and homeless children.

Second Harvest Food Bank www.wenourishhope.org The Second Harvest Food Bank distributes food and groceries to the needy and educates the public about domestic hunger.