

Badge of Courage
Jumping Hurdles – Part 6
Life Church St. Louis – October 10, 2021
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker
Message Videos – www.lcstl.org/messages

James 1:2-3 (ESV) Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

Revelation 2:10 (ESV) Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Matthew 16:25 (ESV) For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

1. Prepare for the _____

Acts 6:5 (ESV) ... and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit,

Acts 6:8 (ESV) And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 6:9-10 (ESV) Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue ... rose up and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

2. Speak the truth _____

Acts 7:1-2 (ESV) And the high priest said, "Are these things so?" And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,

Acts 7:51 (ESV) "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.

Acts 7:52 (ESV) Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered,

3. Choose to lose your life for _____

Acts 7:55 (ESV) But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

Acts 7:58 (ESV) Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Acts 7:59-60 (ESV) And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Action Plan for This Week

Have a daily time of Bible reading & prayer (Acts 6-7)
 Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

Invite a friend to attend the service next week.

How will I obey God's Word this week? _____

Badge of Courage Study Guide

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Intro. What is the purpose of the hurdles or trials that God allows into our lives (James 1:2-3)?

Intro. Why are we not to fear when even our lives may be at stake (Revelation 2:10)?

Intro. How can a person lose their life for Jesus' sake (Matthew 16:25)?

1A. What can Stephen's example teach us about service (Acts 6:5)?

1B. What does Acts 6:8 tell us about Stephen's spiritual growth?

1C. Why does the Gospel often stir controversy and attract opposition (Acts 6:9-10)?

1D. What accusations do Christians today commonly face? How should we respond to these attacks?

2A. Why did Stephen not defend himself, but simply preach from God's Word (Acts 7:1-2)?

2B. What was the purpose of Stephen's message (Acts 7:51)?

2C. Why did Stephen finish up his message speaking of Jesus (Acts 7:52)?

2D. What hurdles do you face in your life that discourage you from being a witness for Jesus?

3A. What does Acts 7:55 tell us about God's view of Stephen?

3B. Why do you think that Acts 7:58 mentions that Stephen's executors placed their garments at the feet of Saul?

3C. In what ways does Stephen's martyrdom follow the pattern of Jesus' death (Acts 7:59-60)?

3D. What can you learn from the story of Stephen that will encourage you in being a bold witness for Jesus?