



ACTS

the story of the Church

Sermon Guide

WEEK 8

HOW WELL DO YOU SUFFER?

Read: Acts 5:41 - 8:3

Consider:

How willingly do you accept your suffering? Is it something for you to endure and get over? Or is it an experience to deepen your relationship with God and other Christ followers? Suffering is the opportunity for us to lean into God and experience the profound wisdom and rest granted to us in that suffering. Learning how to suffer well can allow us to grow in our walk and experience God in unique ways.

Engage:

When was the last time you truly suffered? What was your mindset like? Did you feel alone? Did you experience spiritual growth?

Practice:

This week, as you reflect on times that you have suffered, willingly enter into suffering. Fast. Choose to forgo something that gives you pleasure--rather it be eating, social media, caffeine, etc., or choose to

implement something that isn't pleasurable such as exercise or sitting in silence for an hour. Take inventory of your comfort level and where your thoughts immediately go. Do you instinctively reach for Jesus?

Do this the days leading up to your small group gathering. When you gather, break bread together and talk about your experiences. We may find that we have shared experiences when it comes to suffering.

Apply:

Our willingness to suffer and share in our suffering can ensure others are pointed toward Christ through our suffering. A direct result of Stephen's martyrdom was Saul's conversion and the immediate spread of the Gospel. How might we best share our suffering so that Christ is glorified?

Ask:

Did last week's sermon bring any questions to mind? Discuss with your group. Someone else might have had the same question or know how to answer yours!

Still have questions? Feel free to reach out to Dominique at dominique@hopefellowshipknox.com.