

Live on Your Own

“Be Committed”

8/4-8/8/25 Vol. 7 Session 1

Memory Verse: Put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. [Ephesians 6:13](#) (NLT)

Day 1: Stephen Is Persecuted for His Faith Read [Acts 6:2–15](#); [7:51–60](#).

QUES: Do you think Stephen continued to grow as he served others? If so, how?

QUES: If you had been Stephen, how do you think you would have responded to persecution and arrest?

QUES: How do you think Stephen’s death impacted the Church then? How does it impact us as believers now?

Activate As Christians, growing strong and steady in our faith involves serving others. As we serve, we grow. To help others, we must commit our time and energy. We must be committed to seeking God through prayer and studying His Word. God will help us become steady and strong to face whatever life brings.

Challenge This week, watch for an opportunity to take responsibility to help others in your church. Perhaps it’s as simple as opening your home for your small group. Or perhaps it would be helping or taking a meal to someone in need. You can find many ways to serve Christians around you. Take on some responsibility to share the love and hope of Jesus with someone else.

QUES: What is God saying to you about remaining committed to serving Him even in the face of persecution or death?

Day 2: A Young Mother’s Faith Read [Exodus 2:1–10](#). The Israelites ended up in Egypt centuries before this passage. Joseph first went there as a result of persecution by his own brothers. But God was with Joseph, and he became second-in-command of that nation, only answering to Pharaoh. Joseph’s good planning during the time of famine eventually led his family to Egypt.

Finally, Joseph’s entire generation was gone, and a king came to power who had no memory of Joseph. This new king was uncomfortable with the growing number of Israelites. He was worried that they would rise up and take over. So, the new Pharaoh decided to control the population and mandated that all Hebrew baby boys were to be killed. Imagine how terrifying this was for the Israelites!

But one young mother trusted God in a profound way. She put her son in a basket, technically following the king’s command by placing the baby in the river. God provided a way for the baby to be saved by none other than the princess herself. That young mother’s faith, despite such terrible persecution, allowed Moses to be saved. He, in turn, was the one who eventually led the entire nation of Israel out of Egypt.

QUES: What do you think Moses’s mother might have been thinking as she placed her baby in a basket in the Nile River?

QUES: What about this part of Moses’s story most challenges you?

Day 3: A Prophet’s Lesson Read [1 Kings 19:1–18](#). Elijah had just won an incredible showdown with all the priests of Baal. Elijah stood up against all the idol worshippers and trusted the Lord. God sent down fire and all the people were reminded how great God is. But it made the wicked queen furious, and she vowed to kill Elijah. So how did he respond? Elijah ran away and hid in fear and discouragement. After such a great victory, Elijah suffered a humbling and painful time. But did God turn His back on Elijah? No! Instead, He met Elijah right where he was—doubts and all.

First, God strengthened Elijah with rest and food. Next, God reminded Elijah that people who really know Him don't always need showy reminders of His presence, like fire or wind or earthquakes. Instead, He is with us and speaks to us. God gently reminded Elijah that, even in a time of great rebellion, people still loved and feared Him. God will never leave us, and He will be with us wherever we go.

QUES: If you had been Elijah, what would you have done when you heard Jezebel's threats?

QUES: How does God's response to Elijah challenge any fears and doubts you might have?

Day 4: Three Young Men Stand Strong Read [Daniel 3:1–30](#). The king of Babylon had a huge statue erected for his subjects to worship, and he commanded that they all bow to it. But three young Israelite men had a very different idea of what they would do. In the face of tremendous pressure and impending death, these three refused to bow down to worship the idol. Even when the furious king gave them one more chance to disavow God, they wouldn't do it. They chose the punishment of death rather than denying God. What faith!

Remember these men were captives and had no guarantee that they would ever see their homeland or families again.

No one else in the crowd around them seemed to care and just bowed to the statue. But these three knew that to compromise their faith would mean spiritual death, which was far worse than physical death. Then, to everyone's amazement—especially the king's—they weren't burned up or affected in any way. And Someone walked in the fire with them! The faith of three young men humbled a proud king.

QUES: What thoughts probably went through their heads as the young men determined how to respond to the king's orders?

QUES: What impact do you think it made that the three friends decided as a group to remain standing?

QUES: If you had been faced with this challenge, what do you think you would have done?

Day 5: Suffering Brings Glory Read [Isaiah 53:1–12](#). This passage describes a Person who endured great pain and injustice. This Person was despised, rejected, full of sorrows and grief. He was whipped, beaten, pierced, and crushed. He was oppressed, treated harshly, and unjustly condemned. He was struck down by others. He was buried like a criminal, but in a rich man's grave. Many thought this Person's punishment was for His own wrongdoing, but this Man suffered for everyone else's bad deeds.

Anyone who hears this life story might think it was a great tragedy. But all of this was done according to God's plan for this Person's life, for this Scripture is about Jesus. He willingly endured this terrible injustice and persecution so that we could be reconciled to God forever.

When we endure any kind of persecution, we can remember that Jesus is familiar with such pain. We don't have to be surprised or shocked by trials. We can take joy in knowing that Jesus understands and walks through them with us ([1 Peter 4:12–16](#)).

QUES: What phrases in the Isaiah passage particularly stand out to you?

QUES: What is God saying to you about enduring persecution in your own life?