

WEEK 1

JUNE 11, 2023

# Life Group Curriculum

Accused: Stiff-Necked

1

## INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY

God Encounters:  
Share some way  
you saw God  
interact in your  
life this week.

2

## MEMORY VERSE

2 Chronicles 7:14

"If my people, who are  
called by my name, will  
humble themselves and  
pray and seek my face  
and turn from their  
wicked ways, then I will  
hear from heaven, and I  
will forgive their sin and  
will heal their land."

3

## SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 7:51;

*"A Christian is not a person who believes in his head the teachings of the Bible. Satan believes in his head the teachings of the Bible! A Christian is a person who has died with Christ, whose stiff neck has been broken, whose brazen forehead has been shattered, whose stony heart has been crushed, whose pride has been slain, and whose life is now mastered by Jesus Christ."*

John Piper

*"Pride, that invisible bone that keeps the neck stiff."*

Stephen King

## Discussion Questions

1. Read the verse. What does it mean to you to be "stiff-necked?"
2. Stephen is calling these religious leaders (and us) to repentance. What is he calling us to? (What is the opposite of being "stiff-necked"?)
3. Though the follower of Christ has access to the Word of Life, they are to remain humble. Read the following verses and answer the following questions:  
Colossians 3:12; Ephesians 4:2; James 4:6,10; 1 Peter 5:5; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Luke 14:11; Proverbs 11:2; Psalm 25:9.
4. Why is humility such an important aspect of following Jesus?
5. How do we live with conviction in this world yet also live as humble people?
6. In what area of your life do you need to be hu



# Questions to ask when reading the Bible

Sometimes when we read a passage in the Bible it can be confusing or we may not know how to best figure out what it is saying. Below are some good questions to ask when reading the Bible to help make the Bible make sense.

## **1. What stands out to me?**

Note that this does not say "What does this passage mean?" Consider what stood out to you? What did you notice? What did the Holy Spirit highlight for you as you read it?

## **2. What does the text say about the character/nature of God?**

The Scriptures are primarily about God so ask first what the text says about Him before moving to what it says about us, about His plan, or about anything else.

## **3. What does the text say?**

Look at what the text literally says first (this may not be the intent of the text but it is important to look at it as read... at least initially).

## **4. How is it saying it?**

What is the genre of the text and how should we read text in that genre?

## **5. Why does it say it that way?**

Speculate about why the author chose this method of saying what they've said.

## **6. What is it trying to say?**

Getting behind the Scripture, looking at its context, its original audience, its author, etc., what is the text trying to get across to the reader (both the original audience and us today?)

## **7. How does this fit into the whole of the book and the whole of Scripture?**

Looking at the whole book, does what is being said jive with the whole book, with the whole of Scripture?

## **8. What questions do I have?**

Do you have questions about the text? If they aren't answered in the text, are they good questions or are we asking questions that the text isn't meant to answer?

## **9. How do I feel about this teaching/text? Why do I feel that way?**

What does your gut say? Are you frustrated with it? Are you trying to make it say something else than what it says? Does it make you uncomfortable? Where are these feelings coming from? Is there sin in my life I need to repent of?

## **10. What is the universal application of this text/teaching?**

What are we to do with this text? Consider the original audience as well as us today.

## **11. What is my personal application?**

What is God calling you to apply with what you've learned with this text?

## **12. How will I apply what it calls me to?**

Make a plan to apply what God has taught you. Seek to be faithful and obedient to His leading, wherever it may go.