

WEEK 2

JUNE 18, 2023

# Life Group Curriculum

Accused: Uncircumcised

1

## INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY

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

2

## MEMORY VERSE

Deuteronomy 30:6,  
"And the Lord your  
God will circumcise  
your heart and the  
heart of your  
offspring, so that you  
will love the Lord your  
God with all your  
heart and with all your  
soul, that you may  
live."

3

## SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 7:51

*An "uncircumcised heart" is one that is closed and impervious to God's attempts to affect it. It resists them, which is why Stephen calls them "stiff-necked." A stiff-necked person is unyielding. His head is set, his jaw is outthrust, his ears are closed, and his teeth are clenched. He says, "I won't do it!" This is the effect of the uncircumcised heart.*

John W. Ritenbaugh

*While circumcision of the heart may begin at salvation, it is not a one-time process, it is an ongoing process.*

Clarence L. Haynes Jr.

## Discussion Questions

1. Read the verse. What does it mean to you to be "uncircumcised?"
2. Stephen is calling these religious leaders (and us) to repentance. What is he calling us to? (What is the opposite of being "uncircumcised"?)
3. Read the following verses and answer the following questions: Genesis 17:14; Exodus 6:12; Leviticus 26:41; 1 Samuel 17:36; Jeremiah 5:10; Jeremiah 9:26; Ezekiel 32:29; Romans 2:26-27; Romans 4:11
4. How would we describe the importance of circumcision who doesn't understand (hint: it has nothing to do with our physical bodies)?
5. What does it mean to have an "uncircumcised heart?"
6. How does one "circumcise" their heart? Why is this important?



# 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