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# SUFFER WITH JESUS CHRIST

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## Skill

Suffer with Jesus Christ is learning to embrace difficult challenges and painful experiences as a blessed gift from our Heavenly Father.

## Design

Suffer with Jesus Christ (cross/person/fire) > The picture illustrates the radical offer of Jesus to forsake the world and leave everything to follow Him. Jesus promised up front that every one of His disciples will suffer. The **sketch** is man worshipping in a valley illustrating King David's worship in a time of suffering as he journeyed through Death Shadow valley (Psalm 23:4).

## Story

Stephen's Martyrdom (Acts 7:51-60)

This story demonstrates Suffer with Jesus Christ as a kingdom skill because we clearly see the evangelist Stephen willing to die as a martyr for preaching the truth boldly and publicly. If you have time, read all of chapter seven to see how vast was the scope of Stephen's Holy Spirit powered message to God's people. Stephen was on trial for his life, and he boldly spoke the truth in love. Even while he was being stoned to death, he asked Father to forgive his murderers.

## Scriptures

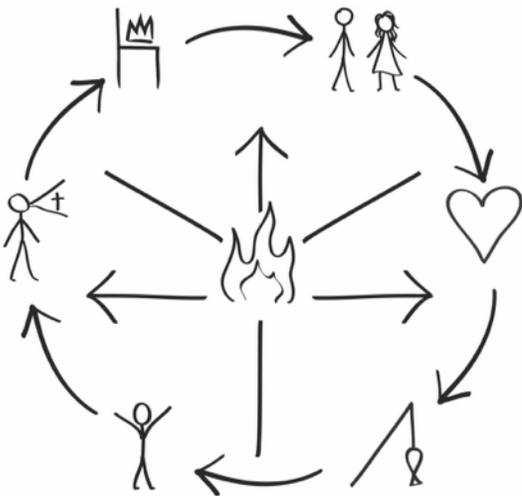
Matthew 10:22 > You will be hated by everyone because of My name. But the one who endures to the end will be delivered.

Hebrews 11:37-38 > They were stoned, sawed in two, died by the sword, wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, destitute, afflicted, and abused. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and on mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.

## Lesson Summary

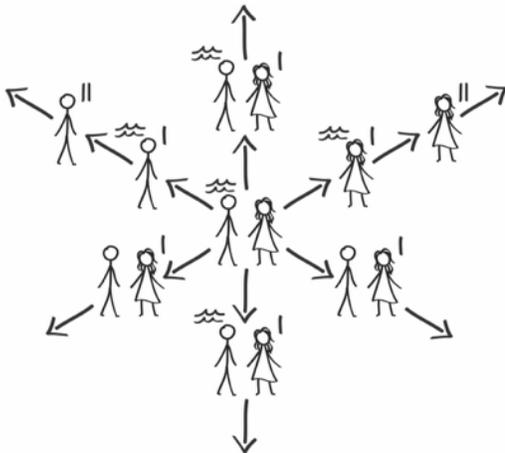
Suffer with Jesus Christ requires total dependence upon the Holy Spirit every moment of every day. We must embrace the teaching that troubles and hardship are the paths that lead into the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22). Our Lord is a Man of Sorrows, someone pierced and crushed and beaten beyond recognition for our sake (Isaiah 53). Even when we feel lost in the depths of the sea and swallowed alive in death, we can find hope in the glory and majesty of the Lord Almighty who loves us and never forsakes us (Jonah 2:1-9).

## Gathering Guide



- Holy Spirit (fire): Let the Spirit guide your meeting.
- **Step One** (back arrow): Last week questions.
- Abide (worshipper): How did you abide last week?
- Harvest (witness): Whom did you share with?
- **Step Two** (up arrow): Discover this week's skill in Scripture as you discuss the Bible story.
- God (throne/crown): What do we learn about God?
- People (man/woman): What do we learn about people?
- Practice: Practice telling this week's story in groups.
- **Step Three** (forward arrow): Next week questions.
- Abide (heart): How will you abide?
- Harvest (fishing): Whom will you share with?

## Generations Map



- People of Peace (people/arrows): Draw your disciples and their disciples. Share recent stories of how you and your team are engaging lost people.
- Baptism (waves): Update your map with those who have been baptized. What is the next step for each disciple who still needs to be baptized or become a baptizer by experience?
- Generations (number lines): Update your map with generations. How can we pray for this movement?