

How to Face A Challenge

Week Three: Endurance



Challenges are all around in our lives. How we endure challenges often determines whether our faith in Christ grows or weakens. God doesn't want us to give up, but to call on Him for help and endure in our faith in Him. Endurance strengthens our testimony for Christ and keeps us strong in Him. It allows us to be what God has called us to be, which is His light in the world. When we endure, it gives us the opportunity to share the story of God's faithfulness in our lives, and that's what people around us so desperately need to hear.

Introspect

- Think of a time when you were completely burned out and ready to give up. What were some of the challenges you had to work through, and what was the end result? Would you say you had a tremendous amount of endurance? Why or why not?
- What do you tend to do when the going gets tough? Which instinct tends to kick in when faced with challenges—fight or flight? Explain your answer.

Investigate

“By your endurance you will gain your lives.” Luke 21:19 (ESV)

Read Luke 21:5-19 (For further reading if desired, read to verse 32.)

- Why shouldn't we let all the terrible and challenging circumstances around the world become our focus? What tends to happen when current tragedies and events become our focus?
- Where should we place our focus? How does that help us gain the right perspective about the challenges in and around us?



“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance.” Romans 5:3 (ESV)

Read 1 Peter 3:13-17

- Why do you think Peter can speak from experience when he wrote these verses?
- How can we endure and stand firm through challenges, yet do so with gentleness and patience?

Incorporate

- Are there areas in your life where you, apart from the Holy Spirit's help, can't envision a positive outcome? Share with your Life Group. Allow them to help and encourage you.
- How do your challenges look different when you ask God to help you get through them?
- Like a long distance athlete, how does having a pattern of enduring help us in the face of continued challenges in our lives?
- What are some challenges that hold your attention and keep you unprepared to share your story? How can you overcome them so you can be more effective for Christ?

Investment

- Christmas at The Cove is right around the corner and it's a very special time for our Cove family as we introduce our friends to Jesus. Many people will visit our campuses for the very first time during our **Christmas Eve Services**. In addition, this time of the year is when some people in our church and in our communities experience difficult times in their lives, and we as a church respond with generosity through our free **Toy Store** experience. Learn more about how you can be a part of making Christmas at The Cove happen at www.covechurch.org/serveatchristmas.

