# CORNERSTONE REFLECTION GUIDE
## JULY 6, 2025

**Title:** **Eyes on the Risen Lord**
**Preacher:** **Rev. Matt Tuggle**
**Scripture:** **John 16:33; Acts 7:55-56**

In the midst of suffering and tragedy, the example of Stephen in Acts 7:55–56 offers a profound glimpse of hope and perspective. As he faced death, Stephen, "full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God." Even while being unjustly stoned, he fixed his eyes on the risen and exalted Lord. This vision reminds us that in our darkest moments, Christ is not distant—he is with us.

Together with John 16:33, where Jesus assures us that though we will have trouble, he has overcome the world, we are able to acknowledge and face suffering with steadfast faith. The risen Lord is our peace in trials, our source of wisdom, our strength in weakness, and our hope beyond tragedy.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. Read John 16:33. What is the significance of Jesus saying, *"I have overcome the world"*? In what way does this verse give you hope?
3. What does it mean to keep our eyes on Jesus? How does this change the way you view suffering?
4. What are some practical ways we can look to Jesus and remind ourselves of his victory when life feels overwhelming?

5. How can we be a source of encouragement and peace to others going through difficult times?

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

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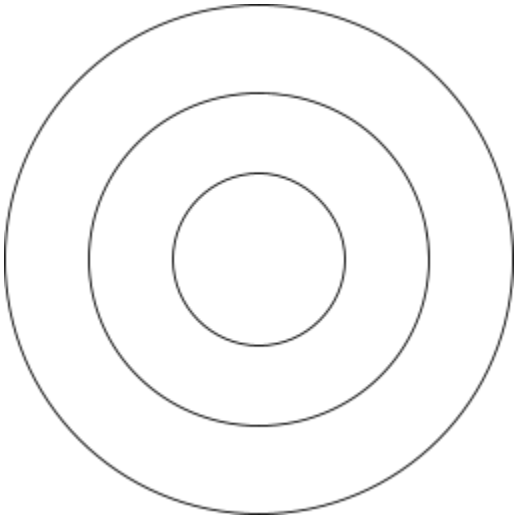
The diagram below is a helpful tool for thinking about how to care for others during times of crisis. It uses concentric circles to represent different levels of emotional proximity to the person or people at the center of the situation.



The key principle is this: **you don’t dump your anxiety and processing inward**—you dump **outward**.

The person or family at the center needs support, not added stress. If you're closer to the situation, you offer care and comfort inward. If you need to process your own emotions, you turn to someone who is more removed (outer circle) for support. This helps ensure you're tending to your own emotional well-being so you can be more present and helpful to those at the center.

Take a moment to reflect in prayer and ask God to bring to mind someone who is experiencing suffering. Where are you in these circles in relation to the person or family at the center? Let that guide how you show up for others—and how you care for yourself.