

EXTRA! Ideas for Adults – The Church God Desires – Session 6

Date: July 11, 2021

Faithful in All Things

The Point: Faithfully trust God as you minister to others.

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Get Into the Study

Use the following to introduce today's session.

The world's [most premature baby](#) celebrated his first birthday on June 5th. Richard Scott William Hutchinson was born five months premature, weighing only 11.9 ounces. When Richard was born, the neonatology team gave him a 0% chance of survival. "The first month they weren't even sure he was going to make it," his mom, Beth Hutchinson, said. "It was really hard. You know in the back of your mind that his odds weren't great." Despite the discouraging news, the Hutchinson's stuck by their son, visiting him daily, even though COVID-19 restrictions prevented them from staying overnight at the hospital. "We made sure we were there to give him support. I think that helped him get through this because he knew he could count on us," his father, Rick Hutchinson, noted. Although the news they had received wasn't encouraging, the Hutchinson's continued to encourage their son, who was able to leave the hospital after 6 months, just before Christmas 2020.

Ask: When have you had to persevere in the face of discouraging news?

Follow-up: When has encouragement helped you beat the odds?

The church in Philadelphia had persevered in their faith despite the discouragement and persecution they faced from the surrounding culture. Jesus recognized this perseverance and offered them words of encouragement to continue growing in faithfulness.

Live It Out

Use the following to conclude today's session.

The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Commission [presented 64 new missionaries](#) during a Sending Celebration on June 14th. The majority of these missionaries had to stand behind screens to protect their identities, due to risks associated with their location of service. These missionaries are faithfully following Christ and trusting in God's protection. One way we can encourage missionaries is through prayer. You can visit imb.org/pray for specific prayer requests.

Break into small groups and invite each group to pray for a specific request from the link above.

We may not face the same level of persecution, but we are still called to trust in God's promises as we follow Christ.

Encourage group members to choose one of the Live It Out statements to implement this week.

Nikki Wilbanks grew up in Tennessee before heading to California to study literature at Pepperdine University. After graduation, she enjoyed a decade-long career as a commercial real estate appraiser and investor. Having returned to Tennessee with her husband, she is now thrilled to be a stay-at-home mom and writer.

Additional Questions

Icebreaker

- When have you had a hard time following the rules?
- Who can you always turn to for an encouraging word?
- What are some favorite words of encouragement you love to hear?

Revelation 3:7-8

- When have you been glad Jesus closed a door for you?
- When have you experienced the benefits of remaining faithful to God?
- How does the security of our salvation impact our work for Christ?

Revelation 3:9-10

- What are some things we can do to obey Jesus' command to endure?
- What are some marks of endurance in the Christian life?
- What are some ways God has tested (not tempted) believers?

Revelation 3:11-13

- Where do you have an opportunity right now to faithfully trust in God?
- What characterizes a church that is expectantly awaiting Christ's return?
- What can we learn from these verses about our future rewards?