



Session 1: The Gospel Message
Suggested Week of Use: December 3, 2017
Core Passages: Acts 13:26-39

News Story Summary

Pastor Frank Pomeroy delivered what proved to be a most difficult sermon on Sunday, November 12, 2017. One week earlier a shooter killed 26 of his parishioners, including an unborn infant and his 14-year-old daughter, Annabelle. Overcome with emotion, Pomeroy said, “I know everyone who lost their life that day, some of which were my best friends and my daughter. And I guarantee without any shadow of a doubt they are dancing with Jesus today. God gets the glory.” In referring to a memorial inside the church, Pomeroy continued, “I want everyone that walks in there to know that the people who died lived for their Lord and Savior, and would want them to live as well.”

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase “first service since mass shooting.”)

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea, share the news story. Explain that Pomeroy’s grief at the loss of his daughter and his friends did not prevent him from sharing the gospel message.

Ask: *What makes the gospel message more important than what we are going through?*

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, remind the group of the news article. Ask: *How would you word the emphasis of Pastor Pomeroy’s message?* Explain that Pomeroy and Paul expressed the desire for people to know Christ and be saved. Encourage group members to regard sharing the gospel as an important and necessary activity in their Christian walk.

Challenge them to not leave any stones unturned to overcome whatever (fear, anxiety, lack of know-how) prevents them from sharing the gospel with others.