

News Story Summary

Memories Pizza in Walkerton, IL closed its doors in mid April. The business is owned by Kevin and Crystal O'Connor who found themselves at the center of controversy in 2015 when they told a reporter that they would not cater a same-sex wedding because of their religious beliefs. After receiving multiple threats and protests, the small shop closed for eight days and then reopened. No official statement has been made as to why the pizza shop closed in April. Some local business leaders speculated off the record that the O'Connors simply wanted to retire and that the 2015 controversy did not play into their decision.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “memories pizza closes”.)

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention ideas, as the group discusses the question about religious liberty, share a summary of the news story about the closing of Memories Pizza. Ask: *Do you think the controversy played a role in their decision to retire? Explain.* Continue the step as written.

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge idea, begin by reminding the group of the news story. Lead the group to identify verses and key ideas that give meaning to being criticized for standing for biblical beliefs. Complete the step as written, reviewing the summary statements under In My Context (or Apply the Text in the Daily Discipleship Guide).