



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 9: Followed

Suggested Week of Use: January 31, 2021

Core Passage: Luke 5:4-11,27-32

News Story Summary

Fifth-grader Callie Danysh from Morris Township, New Jersey, created over 2,000 “Flags of Gratitude” that honor ordinary heroes, such as fire fighters, sanitation workers, police officers, hospital personnel, senior adults in nursing homes, and small business owners in her community.

Initially a scouting project to find one hero to thank, Callie decided to focus on more than one person. The flags are hand-drawn and contain inspiration messages and words of thanks. Framed pictures of these flags are now being sold online with the proceeds going to non-profits like grief support centers and animal shelters.

For more information on this story, search “5th grader uses flags to honor everyday heroes”.

Focus Attention

To replace the Respond idea under Focus Attention, summarize the story about Callie Danysh’s flags of gratitude. Provide everyone with a slip of paper. Direct them to create a flag of some sort that could be used to express gratitude to a person for their work. After most have arrived, invite volunteers to share their flag and to explain why they selected the person or group the flag is directed toward. Lead the group to surmise that most of the people identified would consider themselves ordinary people. Explain that God uses ordinary people as well in His kingdom work. Complete the step using the Transition idea as written.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Respond idea under Summarize and Challenge, emphasize the second question set under Apply the Text (Who can you encourage in the faith this week with the truths from this study? How can you help the person follow Jesus more closely?). Remind the group of the story of Callie Danysh who created Flags of Gratitude. Provide the group with slips of paper to create a Flag of Gratitude to a person who serves in the church, especially those helping with Bible study groups for preschoolers, kids, or students. Collect the flags and present them to the group or groups identified or allow volunteers to present the collected flags to the group or groups identified. Remind the group that God uses all kinds of people in His work. Complete the step as written.