



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 6: Joy and Contentment

Suggested Week of Use: October 10, 2021

Core Passage: Philippians 4:10-20

News Story Summary

While on a European vacation celebrating her 30th wedding anniversary, Barbara Schlatter of Chicago fell ill. Later it would be discovered that this oncology nurse was suffering from Stage 4 Cancer. Schlatter decided to handle her diagnosis with humor and sarcasm; she also said that her years as an oncology nurse has taught her that staying calm is key. Schlatter uses her nursing experience to help others. She also posts positive messages on her blog, pictures of her beautiful garden, and her athletic accomplishments. In addition, she is raising money for cancer research. Schlatter states, “There’s nothing I can change about the cancer I have. All I can change is how I react to it.”

For more about this story, search “Chicago Oncology Nurse Diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer Focuses on Positive”.

Focus Attention

To supplement the Discuss idea under Focus Attention, read the news article on Barbara Schlatter, the oncology nurse dealing from Stage 4 Cancer. Invite the group to share their response to how Schlatter is dealing with her diagnosis. Characterize illness as one thief that can steal a sense of joy.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Assess idea under Summarize and Challenge, after the group evaluates themselves on the three statements, guide them to assess how Schlatter according to the news article handled her diagnosis. Ask: *How might a person demonstrate the three truths expressed in the summary statements when receiving similar news as Barbara Schlatter?*