



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 7: Values

Suggested Week of Use: January 16, 2022

Core Passage: Ezekiel 16:20-21; 23:36-39; Ps. 139:13-16

News Story Summary

In December 2021, Bill Russell who played in the National Basketball Association from 1956 to 1969, held an auction to sell memorabilia items from his personal collection. A total of 429 lots sold for a combined total of \$7.4 million. The jersey Russell wore in his final game sold for \$1.1 million, his first NBA championship ring went for over \$700,000, and his is last NBA championship ring sold for more than \$558,000. The top 18 items alone netted \$5.3 million. Russell's personal 1957 Topps rookie card went for over \$76,000.

Bill Russell won two NCAA championships and an Olympic gold medal before playing professionally. He went on to win 11 championships in the NBA, twice as a player-coach. He was also selected to 12 all-star games and won MVP of the league five times. He was also named to the NBA's 25th Anniversary, 50th Anniversary, and 75th Anniversary Teams.

For more about this story, search "Bill Russell memorabilia auction".

Focus Attention

To supplement the Begin idea under Focus Attention, after the group has shared about the item they most value, share about the Bill Russell items auctioned in December 2021. Ask: *What factors contribute to the value we place on an item?* Highlight responses that point to the person who owned or used the item as giving the item value. Complete the step as written, using the Transition idea.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Apply idea under Summarize and Challenge, recount the story of the auction of the Bill Russell memorabilia. Point out that people will pay for what they value. Ask: *What keeps us from treating every person as if they were a respected sports champion?* Solicit response to the comment included in the Apply idea: We must see other people through His (God's) eyes as God's own creations. Complete the step as written.