



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 9: Living

Suggested Week of Use: May 1, 2022

Core Passage: 1 Thess. 5:12-24

News Story Summary

On April 2, in Wilmington, Delaware, President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden celebrated the commissioning of the USS Delaware, making it the seventh Naval ship to bear the First State's name. First Lady Biden acknowledged that the vessel will always maintain the state's motto of "Liberty and Independence." U.S. Senator Tom Carper, the keynote speaker for the event said, "the men who serve – and will serve – aboard the USS Delaware will bear our state's name for decades to come as they defend our nation. Through their sacrifice and service, may we grow even closer to that more perfect union." The last vessel to bear the name was a battleship that was decommissioned following WWI. The new USS Delaware is a Virginia-class fast-attack submarine. The formal commissioning was scheduled for 2020 but was delayed due to the pandemic.

For more about this story, search "formal commissioning of USS Delaware."

Focus Attention

To supplement the Discuss idea under Focus Attention, after discussing how a city or state's motto gives identity to the residents of a city or state, share the story about the formal commissioning of the USS Delaware. Discuss the impact that the state motto, "Liberty and Independence," has on the vessel as well as the naval crew that will serve aboard the U.S.S. Delaware.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Review idea under Summarize and Challenge, recall the crew aboard the USS Delaware. Discuss what it would mean for the sailors to honor the legacy of the USS. Delaware. Lead the group to identify characteristics these sailors would need to honor the state's motto of "Liberty and Independence?" and how the motto might serve as motivation for the sailors serving aboard the USS Delaware. After the discussion, lead the group to review the commands from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22. Then pose the question of how God empowers believers to live lives that honor Him. Complete the step as written.