



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 9: God Provides

Suggested Week of Use: July 31, 2022

Core Passage: 2 Kings 7:1-15

News Story Summary

Rich Strike wasn't even supposed to be in the Kentucky Derby last May; but he got his shot when another horse, Ethereal Road, was scratched the day before the race. Rich Strike inherited Ethereal Road's No. 20 post position, putting him farthest outside in the starting gate—a spot from which few horses score Derby wins. During the race, favorites Zandon and Epicenter seemed poised to battle for the win, while Rich Strike lingered in 15th place with only a quarter of a mile to go. That's when the 80-1 longshot made his move, though, navigating through traffic and hugging the rail down the stretch to sneak past Epicenter for the win. Rich Strike's win is considered the second biggest upset in Kentucky Derby history. Only Donerail in 1913 won with longer odds at 91-1. This was also the first time that Sonny Leon, the jockey, and Eric Reed, the trainer, had entered the Kentucky Derby. In fact, neither of them had won a top-flight race going into the Derby. Reed once even considered leaving the business after a barn fire killed more than twenty of his horses in 2016. But Reed and Leon, along with owner Rick Dawson, had faith in one another and in Rich Strike.

For more on this story, search “Derby longshot wins stunning upset.”

Focus Attention

To supplement the idea under **FOCUS ATTENTION**, consider securing a video of the 2022 Kentucky Derby and showing it prior to the lesson. If that is not an option, ask learners if they watched this year's Kentucky Derby and why it was so exciting. Share information from the article about Rich Strike's victory. Ask: *Why do we like stories about the underdogs? What are your favorite stories about unlikely heroes who have saved the day?* Allow a few volunteers to share their experiences. Say: *In today's lesson, we'll see how God used some unlikely heroes to bring hope to what seemed like a hopeless situation.*

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE**, remind the group of the unlikely win of Rich Strike and the owner's belief in his horse. Note that a great sports story would have been lost if the Rick Dawson had decided to skip the Derby because they thought the stage was too big. Ask: *What would have happened if the lepers in 2 Kings 7 had simply waited to die rather than taking action? What does this story teach us about how God brings hope to hopeless situations?* Close in prayer, thanking God for providing for us even when things seem hopeless.