

Session 13: Hope Found
Suggested Week of Use: November 27, 2022
Core Passage: Micah 7:1-10,18-20

News Story Summary

Earlier this month, Los Angeles-based FAST Studios announced a new streaming option: the Women's Sports Network (WSN). The new service will be available on multiple platforms, including Amazon Freevee, Plex, Tubi, LG Channels, Local Now, Xumo, and some smart TVs. The WSN has the support of twelve professional women's leagues, including the LPGA and the WNBA. It has promised access to more than 1,000 hours of women's sports content, including original programming (like its flagship show GAME ON), documentaries, and game highlights. Future plans include carrying live games, tournaments, and events. While ESPN launched a website for women's sports (espnw.com) in 2010, the Women's Sports Network is the first-ever television network to focus on female athletes.

For more about this story, search "Studio launches Women's Sports Network."

Focus Attention

To replace the opening activity under Focus Attention, place adults into several small groups. Give each group a piece of paper and a pen and direct them to list any books, movies, or TV shows that contain an element of waiting or hoping (Examples: Castaway, Heaven Can Wait, "You Can't Hurry Love," "Waiting for a Girl Like You," Waiting for the Night Song, The Very Impatient Caterpillar, and so forth) After several minutes, call on the groups to share their answers. Note both the common and uncommon responses. Afterward, share the story of the Women's Sports Network (or show a video clip regarding the story). Point out that many fans have been waiting a long time for a network dedicated to women's sports. Ask: How do you think those fans feel now that their wait is over? What are some things that you've found being worth the wait in life? Discuss responses. Say: What you are willing to wait for depends on what you value. How long you are willing to wait also depends on what is important to you. Explain that today's lesson will talk about a different kind of waiting and hoping.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the activity under Summarize and Challenge, ask: What are some emotions you feel when you are waiting or hoping for something? (frustration, impatience, angst, discouragement, cynicism, and so forth.) Recall the story of the first women's sports network. Ask: What emotions do you think people truly seeking this content might have felt while waiting for a network like the WSN to launch? In comparison, how do you feel as you wait for and hope in Christ's return? Point out that the emotions may be similar in some ways, but the significance of the two events is dramatically different. Ask: How can you and I stay strong in our faith and live with hope as we wait for Christ's return? Close in prayer, asking God to give adults patience and hope as they wait for His return.