



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 3: I Will Raise

Suggested Week of Use: December 18, 2022

Core Passage: John 2:1-25

News Story Summary

Last month, travel center giant Buc-ee's broke ground in Luling, Texas, for its largest store ever (projected opening in 2024). What's interesting is that the Luling site was also home to the first Buc-ee's travel store location when it opened in 2003. The new Buc-ee's will include 75,000 square feet, bringing the title of "largest Buc-ee's" back to Texas. The current largest store—at more than 66,000 square feet—is located in New Braunfels, Texas. However, a 74,000-square foot Buc-ee's is set to open in Sevierville, Tennessee, next year. It will temporarily hold the record until the new Luling store is complete.

Originally a phenomenon in the South, social media and word of mouth have turned Buc-ee's into a traveler's mecca for people from all over the country. Earlier this year, a Buc-ee's store opened in Crossville, Tennessee along I-40 and has swarmed with guests ever since. More than 90 miles from Crossville, a Buc-ee's billboard simply says, "If you know, you know." When a driver familiar with Buc-ee's sees that billboard, they recognize the iconic beaver and look forward to their featured destination.

Buc-ee's are large travel convenience stores and gas stations that cater to individual travelers and families. No semis are allowed on the property. Currently, Buc-ee's offers locations in Texas, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina. Future locations are planned for Colorado, Missouri, and Mississippi. They claim the largest, cleanest bathrooms, along with aisles and aisles of Buc-ee's branded clothing, gifts, snacks, and treats. They also have onsite kitchens providing fresh baked goods and smoked meats daily.

For more about this story, search "Largest Buc-ee's Store."

Focus Attention

To supplement **FOCUS ATTENTION**, ask: *When you take a trip, what signs do you typically look for, especially on longer trips?* As the group responds, poll them as to some of their favorite stops. Find out if anyone has ever stopped at a Buc-ee's and encourage them to share their thoughts. Read the information about the groundbreaking in Texas for the largest Buc-ee's convenience store. Say: *Travelers familiar with Buc-ee's get very excited when they begin seeing the billboards that let them know a store is coming up along their travel route. The signs along the road are designed to create desire and interest—maybe even curiosity—in travelers.* Explain that the accounts John shared about Jesus in his Gospel also create a desire and interest to know more about Him. Emphasize that for those who are genuinely curious, Jesus never fails to reveal Himself. Say: *That's something we will see in today's session.*

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE**, say: *Buc-ee's are popular traveler stops because they promise a lot—and they deliver on those promises.* Explain that Jesus delivered on His stated mission by bringing honor and glory to the Father in both word and deed. Say: *Just like a Buc-ee's billboard points travelers toward a desired destination, believers have a responsibility to point others toward Jesus.* Remind adults that one of Buc-ee's billboards says, "If you know, you know." Ask: *If your life was a billboard about Jesus, what would people know about Jesus from what they see in you?* Challenge the group to live in such a way that their worship and their personal relationship with Jesus acts as a positive billboard of God's glory.