



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 3: I Will Come Again  
Suggested Week of Use: March 19, 2023  
Core Passage: John 13:31–14:6

---

### News Story Summary

Tamillia Valenzuela, a member of a Glendale, Arizona, school board, recently opposed a contract between the board and Arizona Christian University (ACU). The agreement allowed for student teachers from ACU to be placed in the Washington Elementary School District for field experience. According to the university, more than one hundred of its students and graduates have worked in the district in recent years, including twenty-five student teachers. Valenzuela was “disheartened” when she learned of the contract, expressing concerns about the college’s core commitments to marriage between one man and one woman and to advancing Christ’s kingdom on earth. She also pointed out the college’s vision of transforming culture with truth. The school board voted unanimously to end the contract, stating that ACU’s “policies do not align” with the district’s commitment to diversity. The board did leave open the possibility of working with religious organizations that “share our commitment to equity & inclusion.”

For more about this story, search “School board cuts ties with Christian college.”

### Focus Attention

To supplement **FOCUS ATTENTION**, encourage adults to share a time when they experienced opposition because of their belief in Jesus. Ask: *What was your first impression when you encountered that opposition? As you look back, what did you learn from that situation?* Share the news story about the Arizona school board that cut ties with a Christian college. Remind members that as we grow closer to the Lord, our hearts and minds will grow farther from the values of the world. Emphasize that this is not an excuse to be offensive, but it is a reality when we seek to honor God and reflect Christ in our words and actions. Share that in this session believers are called to live for Christ as He builds a people that will honor God for eternity.

### Summarize and Challenge

To supplement **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE**, refer to the article about the Arizona school board and Arizona Christian University. Ask: *What are some positive things we can take away from this article?* Explain that our first response to situations like this should be prayer, asking God to show us what He is doing in our lives and in the lives of those who oppose us. Point out that what begins as opposition could lead to an opportunity to share the gospel. Note that believers can also praise God even as the world opposes our stand for Christ. Close in prayer for people who have not entered into a life-changing relationship with Jesus. Pray that God would use each individual in the group to honor Him by living out their faith.