



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 3: Personal

Suggested Week of Use: June 18, 2022

Core Passage: Jeremiah 7:1-15

News Story Summary

From an early age, Campbell Lino set a goal to become the valedictorian of her high school graduating class and to use that honor to point others to Christ. In May, Campbell learned that she had accomplished her goal of becoming valedictorian and would be giving a speech during the school's graduation ceremony.

After submitting the text of her speech for approval, Campbell was told that she needed to cut some elements to avoid offending people. However, she felt those sections of the speech were important to her gospel message. So, she worked with her father Nathan, a Baptist pastor, and her mother, Nicole, to identify creative ways to present the gospel in the speech. The rewrite subsequently received the principal's approval.

Campbell admitted that she was nervous as she mounted the podium to give her speech. She thought she might get heckled and jeered by the crowd. But as she testified to how Jesus had changed her life, the crowd erupted in applause. At the end, she invited people to her church so they could learn more about what Jesus could do for them. Since then, the speech has gone viral garnering thousands of views on Facebook.

For more about this story, search "Valedictory address focusing on the gospel goes viral."

Engage

To supplement the Engage idea, ask: *How courageous are you in speaking out about Jesus? Why?* Share the story of Campbell Lino and her valedictory speech. Ask: *How do you think Campbell got the courage to speak so openly about her faith in front of so many, possibly hostile, people?* Emphasize that Campbell's courage was rooted in a commitment that went beyond a single public speech. Explain that her speech was a result of striving to live out her beliefs in a genuine way each day. Share that in this session, Jeremiah warned God's people about simply going through the motions of worship while neglecting a faithful walk with Him each day.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge suggestions, remind the group of Campbell Lino's graduation address. Ask: *What would have happened if Campbell had taken her testimony out of her speech? How can you live out your faith boldly in front of others?* Encourage the group to evaluate their lives this week for areas where they might be listening to false voices or just going through the motions in their walk with God. Challenge them to look for ways to live their faith out genuinely so God can use them to make an impact on others.