



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 10: Speaks

Suggested Week of Use: August 6, 2023

Core Passage: Jeremiah 36:19-31

News Story Summary

Christian actor and author Kirk Cameron has been hosting events at public libraries where he reads his pro-faith and pro-family children's books. As part of that effort, his publisher, Brave Books, encouraged Christians across the country to organize reading events at public libraries on August 5. The event was called "See You at the Library," and its goal was to give Christ followers another opportunity to express their faith in the public square. However, the American Library Association (ALA) has been accused of encouraging libraries to block the events. A recording of an ALA presentation suggests that librarians were advised on ways to limit room reservations, making it harder for "See You at the Library" groups to hold their meetings. Cameron is asking for an investigation into the ALA for religious discrimination. A Christian legal organization, First Liberty Institute, has sent a letter on his behalf to the United States Institute of Museum and Library Services, asking the group to determine if the ALA has violated federal law.

For more about this story, search "Kirk Cameron American Library Association."

Focus Attention

To supplement the Engage activities, ask: *What are some memories you have of libraries when you were a kid? How did a local library or school library shape your reading habits?* Point out that many people have developed a lifelong love of books thanks to libraries. Share the story about Kirk Cameron's battle with the American Library Association. Ask: *What is the danger of censoring messages in our culture? Say: In today's lesson, we'll see how a king tried to censor God's message through Jeremiah. In fact, he went so far as to destroy a copy of God's Word. But that didn't stop Jeremiah or God from sharing the truth.*

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind the group of Kirk Cameron's fight with the American Library Association. Say: *Most of us don't have the platform of a famous person like Cameron, but that shouldn't keep us from sharing God's Word.* Encourage adults to list ways they can actively share God's Word each day. Challenge them to consider the impact their witness can have on the world. Say: *We have to remember that God's Word is eternal. It is always true, and it is always relevant. Nothing will ever silence His truth.* Close with prayer, asking God to give each person in the group boldness in sharing God's Word as He leads them.