



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 12: Sacrificed

Suggested Week of Use: November 19, 2023

Core Passage: Mark 15: 24-39

News Story Summary

Texas Rangers rookie outfielder Evan Carter is making his mark on baseball. The 21-year-old native of Elizabethton, Tennessee, went from starting the season in the minor leagues to the Rangers' starting lineup on the sport's biggest stage. Now, he's a champion after Texas defeated the Arizona Diamondbacks in the World Series. But while Carter has won baseball's biggest prize, he also has made headlines for proclaiming how "Jesus Won" in his life. In batting practices and media interviews during the season and the playoffs, he has consistently worn a shirt sharing that two-word message. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) has also partnered with Carter to sell the "Jesus Won" shirts and to donate the proceeds to children living in poverty in Elizabethton. But the main focus behind the shirt is letting people know the difference Jesus has made in Carter's life, regardless of what happens on the baseball field.

For more about this story, search "Evan Carter Jesus Won."

Engage

To supplement Engage, give each adult a blank sheet of paper and a pencil. Encourage them to rate on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being "don't care at all" and 10 being "a matter of life and death," their passion for baseball. Direct adults to record their rating on the paper and to show their responses. Discuss why some love the sport and others ignore the sport. Say: *Whether you love the game or hate it, you might be interested in the story of Evan Carter.* Share the information about Evan Carter and the "Jesus Won" shirts. Ask: *What do you think Evan means by "Jesus Won?" In what ways has He won?* Discuss responses. Share that today's session focuses on the pivotal event of Mark's Gospel, Jesus's ministry, and world history. Note that, on the surface, it might seem like Jesus lost, but He actually scored the biggest victory possible, a win that has eternal implications.

Challenge

To supplement Challenge, remind adults of the "Jesus Won" shirts worn by Evan Carter. Emphasize the irony that Jesus's crucifixion opened the door to victory over sin and death. If possible, take a few minutes to walk through the Plan of Salvation on the inside cover of the Leader Guide and Personal Study Guide. Remind the group that the victory Jesus secured is only effective in our lives if we act on His offer and receive His gift of salvation. Encourage adults to silently evaluate their relationship with Jesus. Let them know that you will be available to speak with anyone who would like to know more about the victory Jesus provides for their lives.