



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 2: The Task

Suggested Week of Use: September 8, 2024

Core Passage: Acts 13:42-52

News Story Summary

Last month, more than 10,000 athletes competed in the 2024 Olympics in Paris, having prepared for years—even decades—to earn the right to participate. Behind the scenes, a very different preparation was taking place. The International Mission Board (IMB), one of two missions organizations of the Southern Baptist Convention, was preparing to send its own representatives to the Olympics. There, they would pursue opportunities to share the gospel with athletes, coaches, and visitors who flooded the country for the almost three-week competition. Evangelistic outreach began in May and continued throughout the Olympics. Volunteer teams from sixteen states, other countries, and several parachurch organizations conducted surveys, hosted children’s festivals and talent shows, traded pins (a longstanding Olympic tradition), and participated in other outreach efforts, all to share the gospel.

For more about this story, search “Southern Baptists ready to share Christ at 2024 Olympics”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, play a game called, “Would You Rather...” Instruct adults to move to the center of the room. Say: *As I give you two options, you must choose which activity you would rather do. Then move to the side of the room designated for your choice.* Read each of the following statements and point to a side of the room for each option:

- Would you rather swim in the ocean or a lake?
- Would you rather teach a Sunday School class for toddlers or teenagers?
- Would you rather eat calamari (squid) or escargot (snails)?
- Would you rather go to the movies or watch golf on TV?
- Would you rather share the gospel with a friend or a family member?
- Would you rather talk about your faith at work or give a presentation at work?

After each question, allow volunteers to explain their choices.

Afterward, say: *Many choices are a matter of preference or what feels the most comfortable.* Share the story of Southern Baptist volunteers who stepped outside of their comfort zones to share the gospel during the 2024 Paris Olympics. Point out that they underwent their own training and preparation. Say: *Today’s session focuses on people who were ready to share the gospel with anyone who would listen.*

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, recall the story of the people who sought to share the gospel at the 2024 Olympics. Point out that volunteers used a variety of approaches to gain an opportunity to talk about their faith (talent shows, pin swapping, and so forth).

Distribute notecards and a pen or pencil. Instruct adults to list people in their lives who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus. Then direct them to list unique ways to share the gospel with the people on their cards based on their needs, desires, habits, and relationships. Allow volunteers to talk about their ideas and responses. Encourage adults to pray for opportunities to share the love of Jesus with those people in the coming weeks, even if it means getting out of their comfort zones.