



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 4: Our Witness

Suggested Week of Use: March 23, 2025

Core Passage: 1 Peter 2:11-17,21-25

News Story Summary

March Madness represents a crazy time when blue blood programs and Cinderella upstarts all compete for the glory of a college basketball championship. Throughout the regular season, coach Bruce Pearl and his Auburn Tigers remained a contender for one of the tournament's top seeds. But, earlier this month, Pearl showed that he wasn't just concerned about what happens on the court. He took time to focus on how the fans represented the school in the stands.

On March 7, the day *before* his team lost in overtime to their in-state rival Alabama, Pearl challenged everyone associated with the university to represent Auburn well. Taking to social media, he applauded the support fans had given the Tigers all season. But he added that he had seen his players become the targets of profane chants and objects thrown onto the court during some road games. He urged Auburn fans to set a better example for young kids at the games and national television viewers.

“We have the best fans in the country AND we need to act like it,” he said. “You guys have done it with unbelievable intensity, with so much fun and so much passion and so much joy, but let's be mindful of our language. Let's be mindful of continuing to be great Auburn men and women.”

For more about this story, search “Bruce Pearl Urges Auburn Fans.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, encourage adults to share if they filled out an NCAA tournament bracket—and how their bracket looks at this point in the tournament. Say: *The intensity of college sports can often test both players and fans.* Share the information about Bruce Pearl's message to Auburn fans before the Tigers' recent game against Alabama. Ask: *Why would he be so concerned about the way Auburn is represented?* Discuss responses. Share that this session focuses on how God's people represent Him to the world. Challenge adults to examine their lives and their witness as they dig into Peter's words.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, identify ways people try to exalt themselves and gain personal glory. Remind them of the comments Bruce Pearl made to Auburn's fans. Emphasize that our responsibility to reflect Christ well as believers is far more important than what fans do at a basketball game. Ask: *What actions can believers take to protect our witness for Jesus and bring glory to God in a genuine way?*