



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 6: Our Defense

Suggested Week of Use: April 6, 2025

Core Passage: 1 Peter 3:13-22

News Story Summary

Baker Mayfield, quarterback of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, recently shared his personal testimony on a Christian sports podcast. Mayfield enjoyed a standout career at the University of Oklahoma, winning the Heisman Trophy in 2017. The Cleveland Browns later made him the top pick in the 2018 National Football League draft.

But his time in Cleveland was rocky; and Mayfield confessed that he wasn't living for Jesus when the Browns traded him to the Carolina Panthers in 2022. After being cut by the Panthers, Mayfield spent time as a backup with the Los Angeles Rams before landing another starting spot with the Buccaneers in 2023.

Along with his struggles on the field, Mayfield's marriage was not doing well. He described that period as hitting "rock bottom," but he also noted that his struggles led him to renew his relationship with Jesus. He explained that God humbled him, stripping his career "down to the studs" so he could see that life was about more than football.

As a result, God has done much through Mayfield. For example, he and his wife, Emily, recently used the foundation they established to provide an \$18,000 blessing of football equipment to a struggling high school program. Mayfield also has embraced opportunities to become more vocal about his faith and to share his story of redemption and restoration.

For more about this story, search "Baker Mayfield hit rock bottom."

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, share the information from Baker Mayfield's podcast interview. Emphasize the phrases "rock bottom" and "down to the studs." Note that Mayfield had lost hope in himself, his marriage, and his career. Ask: *What forces in our lives drive us toward "rock bottom?" How have you seen God use those experiences in your life or in the lives of others?* Highlight how Mayfield has responded to his "rock bottom" by sharing his story with others and by living out his faith in practical ways. Explain that this session examines how our testimonies, especially in hard times, can become a powerful tool for sharing the gospel and making a difference in the world.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind adults of the session's first application point: *Believers should be ready to give a reason for the faith they have.* Discuss ways believers can prepare themselves to provide a reason for their faith. Point out that Baker Mayfield is using his testimony to invite unbelievers to consider the truth of the gospel and to encourage believers to live out their faith in real ways. Challenge adults to consider how they could follow Peter's instructions and become ready to use their testimony as a way to spread the gospel and expand the kingdom for God's glory.