



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Session 13: Be Encouraged
Suggested Week of Use: May 25, 2025
Core Passage: 2 Peter 3:8-18

News Story Summary

Around 9 a.m. on May 10, a 4.1 magnitude earthquake was centered in East Tennessee and North Georgia. The tremor was also felt in the Carolinas, Alabama, and Kentucky. Fault lines do run through Tennessee, so minor earthquakes are not uncommon. In fact, in the thirty days prior to May 10, twenty-one earthquakes were measured in the same area. This geologic region is one of the most active seismic zones in the southeastern United States.

At approximately the same time, an increase in activity was reported at Axial Seamount, an underwater volcano located about three hundred miles off the coast of Oregon. Scientists believe that the volcano, which is almost a mile below the surface, could erupt later this year or early next year; but they admit that a great deal of uncertainty and unpredictability always surrounds volcanic eruptions.

For more about this story, search “East Tennessee Earthquake” and “Axial Seamount.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, write “Earthquake” on the board. Encourage adults who have experienced an earthquake or some other natural occurrence to share how they felt at the time. Point out that two such events made the news recently. Share the information from the news story summary about the East Tennessee earthquake and the volcano off the coast of Oregon. Ask: *Do you think people in Tennessee live in expectation of an earthquake every day? Why or why not? How could knowing that an active volcano may erupt before the end of the year affect the people living in the Pacific Northwest?* Note that most of us don’t think much about earthquakes or volcanos, so they might catch us by surprise. Explain that today’s session—the final session in the study of 1,2 Peter and Jude—focuses on another event that will happen and should not catch us off guard: the second coming of Jesus.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind adults about the earthquake and potential volcano eruption mentioned in the news summary. Ask: *If you were living near a fault line or a volcano, how would that change your life each day? How is that different or similar to believers living in expectation of Christ’s return?* Challenge adults to allow the return of Christ to influence their lives every day. Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for His promise to return and asking God to give adults the wisdom to live like Christ is coming back so they can point others to Him.