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session page

Stubborn Hope

Isaiah 50:4-9 | Session 10.37

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Thoroughly review all the referenced resources for this session in advance.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media)

Context

Read this [article about free hugs](#) and remind the group that *It's not much of a leap we have to make to understand the hatred these people may have felt from their family or even people that didn't even know them. Jen Hatmaker has faced hatred on social media for such actions. Ask:*

- What people can you think of who have been abandoned for their choices to care for others?
- How can we show love to others despite the hatred and anger we may bring upon ourselves?
- Where does someone get the motivation to stand up and tell people to cease their hatred and attacks on others?

- What would you say to those who question your choices to hug someone they disagree with?

Content

Read Isaiah 50:4-9, and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- What is the prophet's understanding of the gift he has been given?
- What is he charged to do?
- When the prophet claims to have "the tongue of a teacher," what does that mean?
- What is he risking by taking a stand for God and helping those who are weary?
- At what point is the prophet's community challenged by this passage?
- Knowing God has asked us to stand up for those who face persecution and judgment, what do you think we will receive today for taking a stand?
- How might this question have been interpreted at the time this scripture was written and why?

Closure

Listen together to "I shall not be moved" and ask:

- Why would this recording be appropriate for the Civil Rights movement that was a central part of our culture at the time it was done?
- For what social movements would this song be appropriate today?
- What kind of socially-focused stands should we be taking today?
- What can we as Christians learn from the words of the song about how we should act?

Close in prayer seeking strength to stand up for those persecuted by others.

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