



YOUTH
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.
- Provide a dodge ball or other object it is safe to throw in your meeting area (See Context).
- Listen to the FaithElement podcast for this session.

Intro

Play the CNN clip and ask:

- What do you think of what these boys did in this clip?
- To what degree is bullying a big problem for you or someone you know and why?
- How do you usually deal with someone who picks on other people or on you?
- What do you think God would want you to do about situations where someone is being picked on?

Context

Play a game of "Protection," using a dodge ball, paper wad, or something else that is safe to throw in your meeting area.

Tell the group: *Imagine that we live in a country with a very strange form of government. There is a president and a bodyguard. In this strange government, it is the bodyguard's job to protect the president, but if someone from the outside hits the president with a ball, the bodyguard becomes the new president, and whoever tagged the president becomes the bodyguard.*

This game is played like dodge ball, with two people in the middle of a circle. The bodyguard can do whatever they wish to protect the president. The ball can hit them over and over as long as it does not hit the president. Once the president is tagged, that person rejoins the outer circle and a new one immediately jumps in. The game is non-stop and no one has to wait for the new bodyguard to get into position before continuing. Play for as long as time allows, then ask: What was the best story and why?

- What was it like playing this game?
- What was more fun and why, protecting someone or being protected?
- In real life, who protects you when someone tries to hurt you?
- In what ways is protecting someone different when it's not just physical harm from which they are being protected?
- Who do you try to protect from being hurt by others and why?

Content

Read [Isaiah 50:4-9](#), and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- Why does the author seem to focus so much on the Lord's instructions to him?
- In what way has God's word ever given you strength in a time when you needed it?
- How did the author respond when someone tried to hurt him and why?
- What end result is the author expecting from his pacifist actions?

- How do you feel about the author expressing that we should not resist someone who wants to hurt us?
- What does this passage say about where we should draw our strength when someone tries to hurt us?
- Beyond being a pacifist, what is the prophet calling people to do?

Closure

Play the Gandhi clip and continue by asking:

- What did you think about the actions taken in this clip?
- In what ways did you find Gandhi to be strong or weak in this clip?
- What do you think would have happened if the action got physical in this clip?
- What would happen if you decided not to fight back if someone bullied or threatened you?
- How would you feel if people saw you as someone who did not fight back and why?
- In what ways is our relationship with God affected by how we respond to abuse?
- How might we help others who are affected by some sort of abuse, without becoming abusive ourselves?

Close this session in prayer.

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