

Media



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the videos and music listed (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Intro

Start your session by having someone read Isaiah 62:1-7 out loud and then show the *Bible Background Video*. Inform your group that the theme today is advocacy, or sticking up for someone who doesn't have the power to do so.

✔ An Advocate

Open the discussion time together by watching "Toughest Man Ever" and then initiate some discussion using questions like the ones provided.

- Why did the cowboy make a better advocate for the woman in the clip than Billy Crystal's character?
- Who in our society or town do you see as those in need of an advocate?
- Do you see any similarity between Israel's position in Isaiah and the Church's position in the modern day? What might that be?
- Who might be the Church's advocate today?
- Who might the Church be an advocate for today?

✔ Marriage: That Blessed Arrangement

Watch the clip entitled "Planning Your Life" from Up in the Air. Ask your group to pay attention to what the women want.

- Do you sometimes feel like the younger woman: that without the right person none of your successes will matter?
- Would you say marriage is more important, less important, or about the same importance as it was say 50 years ago?
- What would marriage have meant to a woman in Isaiah's time?
- Why do you think Isaiah used the metaphor of marriage to describe Israel's relationship with God?

- What benefits to Israel would a 'marriage' to God bring?

✔ Persistence

Finally watch the clip from Shrek 2 called "Are We There Yet?" and be warned that it features an annoying donkey. Play at your own risk.

- Obviously in this clip, Donkey's repetitive question is a negative. However, in general would you say that persistence is most often a positive trait or a negative trait? Can you explain?
- Does persisting in reminding God about something seem like a good idea or a bad idea?
- On a scale of 1-10, how persistent of a person are you?
- What are some signs that might be a clue that our reminders are turning into a negative?
- When we stick up for someone 'weak', is there ever a time to relent?

✔ Outro

End your session by praying that your group would be reminded of God's presence even in our pain. Even though God doesn't promise easy fixes, we can be confident that God is with us.

By **Rory Naeve**

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