



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 9: The Gospel's Forgiveness
Suggested Week of Use: October 31, 2021
Core Passage: Colossians 2:4-15

News Story Summary

Recently, the Education Department announced that it would temporarily drop some of the strictest requirements around the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. This program was implemented in 2007 to encourage college graduates to pursue careers in public service (including teaching, social work, military, and other public service jobs) by erasing student loan debt after graduates had made ten years of payments. However, this program has only helped 5,500 borrowers get their loans erased, with more than ninety percent of the applicants being rejected. Under the new rules, borrowers who have worked ten years in a qualifying job will be eligible for loan relief. The change will make 22,000 eligible for loan forgiveness and another 27,000 could be eligible if they get their previous payments certified.

For more about this story, search “Troubled student loan forgiveness program gets an overhaul”.

Focus Attention

To replace the Focus Attention ideas, share with the group about the recent changes made to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. Lead the group to list how receiving loan forgiveness might impact the eligible public servants. Seek to keep the conversation focused on the impact of receiving loan forgiveness. After most have arrived, compare the forgiveness of a debt to the forgiveness of sin. Characterize sin as carrying a debt we are unable to pay and for which we need forgiveness. Point to *forgiveness* on **Pack Item 3** (*Poster: Key Words*) and circle the word. Explain that the focus of today's lesson is the forgiveness of sin that is found only through faith in Jesus.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Pray idea under Summarize and Challenge, begin by reminding the group of the loan forgiveness being offered to eligible public servants and the impact that may have on their lives. Compare the thankfulness one would feel after being granted loan forgiveness and the thankfulness a person should have after being granted forgiveness through believing in Jesus Christ. Complete the step as written, leading the group in a time of prayer of thanksgiving.