



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 12: Facing Death?
Suggested Week of Use: August 22, 2021
Core Passage: Ecclesiastes 9:1-10

News Story Summary

Gregory Shamus was one of the credentialed photographers covering the recent Olympic games in Tokyo. While having taken photos at several other sporting events, this was his first time to cover the Olympics. He was assigned by Getty Images the basketball games that took place at the Saitama Super Arena. When asked about this assignment, Shamus noted that the best shots were not only those that captured the action or emotion of a game but the ones that also included the Olympic rings in the background. Shamus covered four games a day for the first sixteen days of basketball, calling it a bucket list opportunity.

For more about this story, search “Gregory Shamus Olympic basketball”.

Focus Attention

To supplement the Introduce idea under Focus Attention, share the story of Gregory Shamus’ photo assignment at the Tokyo Olympics. Invite volunteers to share their reaction to the story. Encourage them to rate the Olympics as an assignment for a photographer. Ask: *What would make this assignment a ‘bucket list’ assignment?* Complete the step as written using the question under Ask.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Discuss idea under Summarize and Challenge, remind the group of the story about Gregory Shamus taking photos at the Olympics. Characterize him doing this work as a blessing others could have been assigned to do. Call attention to the third question set under Apply the Text (List the blessings of life for which you are most grateful. How can you celebrate these blessings, being sure to honor God in the process?) Lead the group to call out blessings in their life, recording responses on a board. Guide the group to record in their copy of the Personal Study Guide or Daily Discipleship Guide ways they could honor God by celebrating the blessings in their lives.