

The Gospel Project for Adults, Winter 2016-17
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 6

Introduction: *Talk about the meaning of “sustained.”*

Ask, “What does the word *sustain* mean?” Write answers on a board or large piece of paper. Invite a few volunteers to look for synonyms on their phones. Ask, “Why do we care about sustainable products? How are you sustained?”

Say something like, “Let’s quickly look at some ways God sustained and continues to sustain in His Word.” Invite volunteers to read the following passages:

- 1 Kings 17:4;
- Psalm 3:5;
- Psalm 145:16;
- Genesis 8:22;
- Psalm 73:26;
- Colossians 1:17;
- Isaiah 41:10

Point 1: *Highlight the inadequacy of substitutes.*

Discuss using the text for point 1 that Ezra and the Jews had to reject help from their neighbors because they worshiped God alongside other pagan gods.

Hold up an orange and a bottle of Vitamin C tablets. Say something like, “Compromising our faith with a social similarity is like someone trying to tell you that you don’t need an orange; you can get all the benefits of this fruit from taking this tablet.”

Hold out the orange while saying, “One [the orange] is real.” Hold out the bottle of tablets while saying, “The other [the bottle] is counterfeit.”

Say, “One is genuine; the other may seem close but really isn’t.”

Engage learners in discussing the fact that Christianity cannot be watered down or blended into culture.

Point 2: Focus on God's Word.

The following article will give learners some great basics for focusing on God regardless of their circumstances or environment:

<https://billygraham.org/answer/how-can-i-keep-my-mind-focused-on-god-when-i-have-so-many-distractions/>

After reading these starters, engage learners in discussing different ways they stay focused on God throughout the day.

Conclusion: Illustrate endurance in harsh environments.

Show the following video of the three coldest NFL games (2 minutes, 36 seconds): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9JibIaKIDw>

Following the video, say something like, “Sometimes our Christian walk feels like this: We don’t know how we’ll even get onto the field, let alone compete. But we can be confident that we have God for our refuge, our strength, and our power. We can do all things through Him, regardless of our circumstances or our opposition.”

Teaching Tip of the Week

This might be a great week to invite a volunteer to share a time when God sustained him or her in a difficult time of opposition. Give the volunteer a few days of notice to prepare.