

## Adult Bible Studies

### Current Events Supplement February 3, 2019

#### Renounce Everything for Christ Philippians 3:7-14

Thirteen-year-old Jayme Closs of Barron, Wisconsin, was kidnapped in October 2018, and held for 88 days before escaping. Her aunt and guardian, Jennifer Smith, said, "I just had hope that she was alive out there somewhere and we'd get her home. I knew she was close and I never gave up that hope." Barron County sheriff, Chris Fitzgerald, said, "You can't give up. When a sixth grader says 'don't give up,' you just can't give up." Diane Tremblay, Barron School District superintendent, said of Jayme's bravery, "Is courageous even a big enough word?" In a press conference, Tremblay said, "We want to thank Jayme for being so courageous and for achieving an opportunity to find her way back to us. What an extraordinary young lady."<sup>1</sup>

The student book author writes, "One more thing pressing on means is not giving up."<sup>2</sup> In relation to the church, the writer encourages us to try new things, because "doing nothing will get us nowhere."<sup>3</sup> We must risk failure and try new things to find fresh avenues of spiritual growth, influence in our world, and service with our neighbors. Giving up is not an option the apostle Paul would have accepted.

The story of Jayme Closs is a story of an entire community that never gave up hope. Her story is one of courage in the face of failure. She took a risk and did something to change her circumstance, and was welcomed home to a family and town that never gave up on her. Changing the way we do church involves risk and trying something new. We find our hope in and the strength to never give up from our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. When has fear of failure prevented you from trying something new? Why would giving up have been unacceptable to Paul?
2. In what ways has your faith community taken risks to find fresh avenues of growth? What risks have paid off and why?
3. When have you experienced risk holding a faith community back from something new? How does your faith community find hope in and strength through Jesus Christ?

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<sup>1</sup>From "Jayme Closs Comes Home," *48 Hours*, CBS, ([cbs.com/shows/48\\_hours/video/eIX4YjVMrFRYz4smZHbJEuHB3yO1Rssi/jayme-closs-comes-home/](https://www.cbs.com/shows/48_hours/video/eIX4YjVMrFRYz4smZHbJEuHB3yO1Rssi/jayme-closs-comes-home/)).

<sup>2</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Winter 2018-2019, by Stan Purdum (Cokesbury, 2018); page 72.

<sup>3</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*; page 73.

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