COURAGEOUS BAPTIST WOMEN



BAPTIST FREEDOM

The Life of Barbara "Babs" Baugh

BAPTIST HISTORY & HERITAGE SOCIETY

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BAPTIST FREEDOM
The Life of Barbara "Babs" Baugh

OVERVIEW



Barbara "Babs" Baugh often said, "You can't out-give God." She lived with generosity, joy and faith. In 2007, she became president of the Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation. A foundation is a group that gives money to help others do important work. Over the years, the Baugh family gave nearly $100 million in grants through the Foundation. Babs especially supported Baptist freedom and religious freedom.

BIBLE VERSE

Matthew 5:16: In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

SESSION OUTLINE

Prepare

- Make copies of the Student Handout.
- Review the story and Bible verse.

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask:** Who helps you when you need help?

Engage

- Distribute the Student Handout.
- Read and discuss the Bible verse.
- Work on the Handout Activity.
- Transition to Story Time.

Share

- Tell the story, "Baptist Freedom: the Life of Babs Baugh."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Pray.
- Watch videos about Babs.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

STORY

Baptist Freedom: The Life of Babs Baugh

People often say everything is bigger in Texas, and Barbara "Babs" Baugh had a big, joyful personality. She loved bringing joy through music, travel, art and encouragement. From 1985 to 2018, Babs directed the Sonshine Singers, a choir of more than 100 older adults. From fall through spring, the group performed at two nursing homes or retirement communities most Monday mornings. Babs also owned a travel agency for more than 30 years and planned trips around the world. She filled her home with colorful art, including a penguin sculpture named Curby. Curby was made from objects that might otherwise have been thrown away—sent to the curb.

Babs loved God's church and loved being Baptist. In 2007, she became president of the Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation, which her parents had started. A foundation is a group that gives money to help others do important work. The Baugh Foundation gave grants to Baptist groups and other organizations. It supported groups that welcomed everyone and cared for children and people in need. It also supported work that kept churches informed and protected religious freedom. Over the years, the Baugh family gave nearly $100 million in grants through the Foundation.

Babs cared deeply about Baptist freedom. Church freedom means each Baptist church can choose its members, leaders, beliefs and practices. Religious freedom means every person may worship, or choose not to worship, without government interference. Babs and the Foundation supported women in ministry and organizations that treated every person as made in God's image. Through music, friendship, leadership and generous grants, she helped people and organizations follow God with courage, joy and freedom.

FACT CHECK

🎶 Babs directed the Sonshine Singers from 1985 to 2018. The choir performed at two nursing homes or retirement communities most Monday mornings from September through May.
🌍 She owned a travel agency for more than 30 years and planned trips around the world.
🐧 Her penguin sculpture, Curby, was made from objects that otherwise might have been thrown away.
✊ Babs led the Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation. A foundation is a group that gives money to help others do important work.
👩 She supported church freedom: each Baptist church can choose its members, leaders, beliefs and practices.
⚖️ She supported religious freedom: everyone should be free to worship or not worship without government interference.
🌟 Babs and the Foundation supported women in ministry and organizations that welcomed people who had often been excluded.

STUDENT HANDOUT

Babs Baugh: Giving, Joy and Freedom

Make one copy of the Student Handout for each child. Read the directions aloud. Younger children may work with a partner or an adult. Students first find key words from Babs's story in the word search. Then they use the clues to complete the crossword. Review the answers together and ask which word best describes Babs.

DISCUSSION AND PRAYER

- **Ask:** How did Babs help others?
- **Ask:** What is religious freedom? Why is it important?
- **Say:** Babs Baugh encouraged and supported others. She led the Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation. A foundation is a group that gives money to help others do important work. The Baugh Foundation gave grants to Baptist groups and other organizations. It supported groups that welcomed everyone and cared for children and people in need. It also supported work that kept churches informed and protected religious freedom. Baptists also believe in church freedom: each church can choose its own leaders, beliefs and ways of worshiping and serving.
- **Ask:** How can you be an encourager for others? How can you encourage others? How can others encourage you?
- **Pray:** Dear God, thank you for Babs Baugh and the many ways she supported Baptists over the years. Help us to be encouragers to others just as she was. Amen.

WATCH

- Thank You, Babs—A tribute to Babs Baugh: *https://www.thebhhs.org/baughtribute* (15:53)
- Babs Baugh's work to help Mercer: *https://www.thebhhs.org/mercerawards* (4:18)
- Baugh Center for Visual Arts Groundbreaking Ceremony (example of Babs Baugh's work through the Baugh Foundation): *https://www.thebhhs.org/baughceremony* (2:09)

ACTIVITIES

Enjoy a Texas Treat

Items needed: *chips and salsa (or queso); Texas sheet cake; Fritos; plates; napkins; water*

Choose one Texas treat to offer. As children eat, explain that Babs was born in Houston and spent most of her life in Texas. She performed in professional music groups, led the Sonshine Singers, planned trips around the world through her travel agency and served churches and community organizations throughout her life.

Run an Obstacle Course

Items needed: *soft floor markers, mats or tunnels*

Create a simple obstacle course. Pair children and encourage them to help each other through it while keeping their eyes open. Then switch roles. Talk about how support can make a difficult task easier. Explain that Babs often worked behind the scenes by giving grants that helped organizations do important work.

From Trash to Treasure

Items needed: *recycling items (egg cartons, jars, lids, etc.); glue or glue dots; pipe cleaners; art supplies; picture of Babs and Curby*

Encourage children to work together to create a mascot for your room using items found in recycling bins. Talk about Babs's penguin sculpture, Curby, which was made from objects that might otherwise have been thrown away. Curby can help us think about how God can use what others overlook.

DESIGN TEAM

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COURAGEOUS BAPTIST WOMEN

BAPTIST FREEDOM

The Life of Barbara "Babs" Baugh

STUDENT HANDOUT

Name: _____

1. WORD SEARCH: FIND BABS'S KEY WORDS

Find and circle the 10 words. Words go across, down or diagonally. They do not go backward.

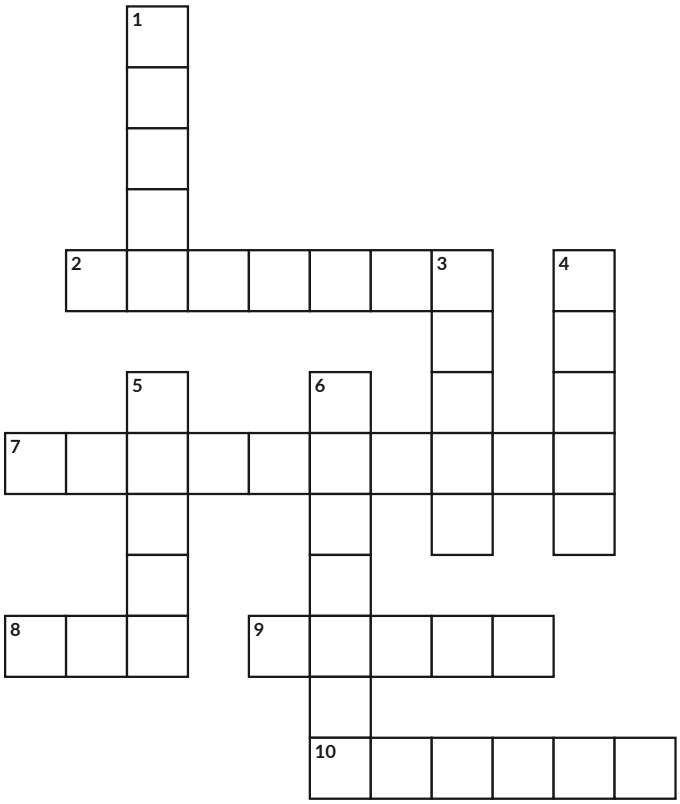
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D	Y	E	R	N	T	R	A	V	E	L	G
O	T	B	A	B	S	E	C	N	R	Y	M
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I	I	H	A	M	U	S	I	C	D	T	Z
W	D	F	X	N	H	G	S	J	X	V	A
X	R	Q	G	R	A	N	T	N	B	D	M
U	I	D	X	S	L	H	V	W	W	R	V

WORDS TO FIND

BABS
BAUGH
BAPTIST
CURBY
FOUNDATION
FREEDOM
GRANT
JOY
MUSIC
TRAVEL

2. CROSSWORD: REMEMBER BABS'S STORY

Read each clue and write one letter in each box. Use the story if you need help.



ACROSS

2. Babs worked to protect Baptist and religious ____.
7. A family-run nonprofit that gives grants to help other organizations.
8. Babs spread laughter and this wherever she went.
9. Matthew 5:16 says to let your ____ shine.
10. Babs owned an agency that helped people plan this.

DOWN

1. A group of people who sing together.
3. Babs used this gift to bring people joy.
4. Money a foundation gives to help an organization do its work.
5. The name of Babs's penguin sculpture.
6. The Christian tradition Babs loved.

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TEACHER ANSWER KEY

Babs Baugh: Giving, Joy and Freedom

1. WORD SEARCH: FIND BABS'S KEY WORDS

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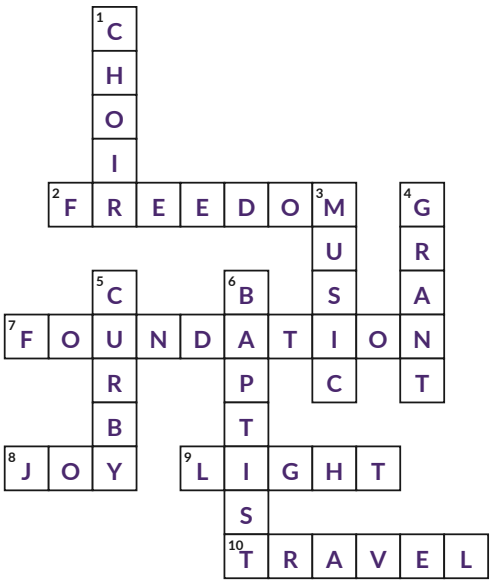
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B	Z	U	N	P	O	F	O	D	C	C	H
D	Y	E	R	N	T	R	A	V	E	L	G
O	T	B	A	B	S	E	C	N	R	Y	M
B	F	H	P	A	Y	E	B	H	J	E	I
L	K	F	O	U	N	D	A	T	I	O	N
N	D	R	J	G	T	O	P	R	Z	G	Y
W	J	Y	O	H	Q	M	T	T	O	R	U
I	I	H	A	M	U	S	I	C	D	T	Z
W	D	F	X	N	H	G	S	J	X	V	A
X	R	Q	G	R	A	N	T	N	B	D	M
U	I	D	X	S	L	H	V	W	W	R	V

WORDS TO FIND

- BABS
- BAUGH
- BAPTIST
- CURBY
- FOUNDATION
- FREEDOM
- GRANT
- JOY
- MUSIC
- TRAVEL

2. CROSSWORD: REMEMBER BABS'S STORY

Read each clue and write one letter in each box. Use the story if you need help.



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BABS AND CURBY

Babs Baugh stands beside Curby, a penguin sculpture made from objects that otherwise might have been taken to the curb and discarded. Its name is a play on the word curb.

BAPTIST HISTORY & HERITAGE SOCIETY

Help share the Baptist story.

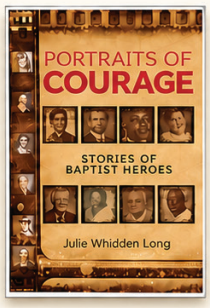
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