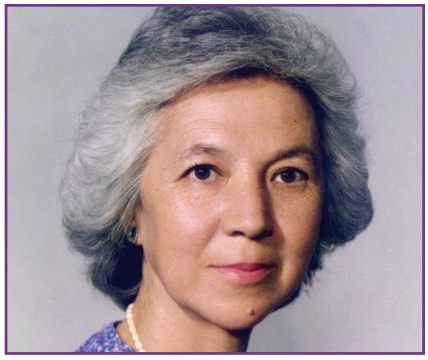
COURAGEOUS BAPTIST WOMEN



PIONEERING FAITHFULNESS

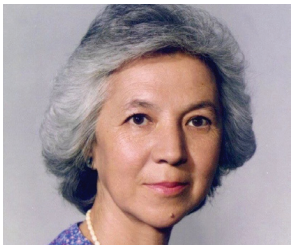
The Life of Edna Lee de Gutiérrez

BAPTIST HISTORY & HERITAGE SOCIETY

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PIONEERING FAITHFULNESS
The Life of Edna Lee de Gutiérrez

OVERVIEW



Edna Lee de Gutiérrez was a pioneering Baptist minister, writer and international leader who helped make a new path for others. Her life showed that faithfulness to God can overcome poverty, differences between cultures and unfair treatment. Throughout her life, she challenged women and men to use their God-given gifts and to refuse to let prejudice or poverty limit them. She taught that everyone could participate in the Kingdom of God, and that everyone has something to give. Her pioneering faithfulness gave other women the courage to stand up for themselves and God's kingdom.

BIBLE VERSE

Matthew 5:3-9: Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad. Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth. Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full. Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy. Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God. Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children.

SESSION OUTLINE

Prepare

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

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask:** Who stands up for you?

Engage

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

Share

- Tell the story, "Pioneering Faithfulness: The Life of Edna Lee de Gutiérrez."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the story and pray.
- Watch videos about Edna.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

STORY

Pioneering Faithfulness: The Life of Edna Lee de Gutiérrez

All her life, Edna Lee de Gutiérrez urged women and men to use the gifts God gave them. She taught them not to let prejudice or poverty stop them. Prejudice means unfair thoughts or unfair treatment because of who someone is. Poverty means not having enough money for basic needs. Edna was born in Mexico City in 1934. Her father was a Chinese diplomat, and her mother was a Mexican missionary. Her parents welcomed everyone. They taught Edna that even without much money or food, their family was rich in faith, love, care, encouragement and hope. Edna never forgot this lesson. To her, faith and family were treasures no one could take away.

Edna married Rolando Gutiérrez Cortés, a pastor from Nicaragua. Together they led Iglesia Bautista Horeb, or Horeb Baptist Church, in Mexico City. It was a small church in a neighborhood where many families had little money. Edna and Rolando made the church a place for worship, learning, help and hope. In 1985, a powerful earthquake struck Mexico City. Edna gathered the women of the church, and they turned the building into a relief center—a place that gives food, shelter and other help after a disaster. For three months, they fed 6,000 people each day and gave 45 families a place to stay.

Through her words and actions, Edna showed God's faithfulness and care to people living in poverty. She believed that having little money did not stop anyone from serving God. She taught churches to work alongside people, not just do things for them. Everyone could help, and everyone had gifts from God to share.

Edna was a bold leader. She encouraged women to lead and to work on problems such as poverty, violence and illiteracy—not being able to read or write. She also led Baptist organizations. These groups help Baptist youth, women and churches work together. They included the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance, the Mexican National Baptist Youth Union, the Nicaraguan Baptist Convention and the Baptist Women's Union of Latin America. The Baptist World Alliance is a worldwide family of Baptist groups. Edna became its vice president. After Rolando died, she became the pastor of Horeb Baptist Church.

Edna's leadership inspired many women to become pastors, even when others told them they could not. Her courage also inspired her family. One of her daughters, Adalia Gutiérrez Lee, became a Baptist leader too and continues to care for others, just as her mother did.

Edna's life teaches us that faith and family are precious treasures. Her life teaches us to respect people living in poverty and remember that they have gifts to share. We can answer God's call with courage. We can learn, lead and work together. We can celebrate people from different cultures. When everyone shares the gifts God has given them, we can change the world!

DISCUSSION AND PRAYER

- **Ask:** What are some ways in which Edna Lee de Gutiérrez showed courage?
- **Ask:** How did she help others show courage?
- **Ask:** How can we use the gifts God has given us to take part in God's work in the world?
- **Say:** Edna Lee de Gutiérrez showed courage by standing up for others, especially the poor. She reminded everyone that all people, regardless of how much they have or who they are, have value to God and have been given gifts by God. She encouraged women to take leadership roles and inspired others to answer God's call boldly. She also showed how people can work together to make more of an impact for God's kingdom.
- **Pray:** Dear God, thank you for Edna Lee de Gutiérrez's faith. Thank you for the many ways that she shared your great love with others. Thank you for the ways that she encouraged others to serve you, even if they did not have very much. Help us to be bold in our faith, just as Edna was. Amen.

WATCH

Edna's daughter, Adalia Gutiérrez Lee, continues her mother's legacy as she serves as a Baptist Leader: *https://www.thebhhs.org/edna1* (4 min, 9 sec)

FACT CHECK

🇨🇳🇲🇽 Edna Lee de Gutiérrez was the daughter of Juan Lee, a Chinese diplomat, and Adalia Ramos de Lee, a Mexican missionary.

🏆 Edna believed and taught that faith and family are precious treasures. Even when you don't have many earthly treasures, you are rich when you have faith and family.

🔑 Edna was a leader: She led Baptist groups for youth, women and churches in different parts of the world. She was president of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance (1985–1990), vice president of the Baptist World Alliance (elected in 1990), the first woman president of the Mexican National Baptist Youth Union, president of the Nicaraguan Baptist Convention, president of the Baptist Women's Union of Latin America and was the pastor of Horeb Baptist Church after her husband died.

🤝 Edna was a helping hand. She organized a relief center at Horeb Baptist Church after the 1985 earthquake in Mexico City. She worked alongside people living in poverty by partnering with them; and she established a home for elderly women and orphaned children.

ACTIVITIES

Enjoy Mexican Street Food

Option 1: Quesadillas

Items needed: *Soft taco shells, shredded cheese, microwave, plates, napkins*

Make quesadillas by sprinkling cheese over the soft taco shell and then microwaving them for 20–30 seconds. Once the cheese is melted, fold it over to make a quesadilla. Serve the children and talk about how quesadillas are a popular street food in Mexico City, where Edna Lee de Gutiérrez lived.

Option 2: Ice Pops

Items needed: *Popsicles, napkins, plates (optional)*

Give each child a popsicle, allowing them to choose their flavor. Talk about how Ice Pops are a popular street food in Mexico City, where Edna Lee de Gutiérrez lived.

Find other street food ideas here: *https://www.thebhhs.org/icepops*

Go on a Treasure Hunt

Items needed: *pictures or names of family members (If names, write on index cards. Names can be actual names, or names like "Mom, Dad, Grandma, Brother, Sister, etc."); pictures of a cross, a heart, praying hands, the church, friends*

Before children arrive, hide pictures (and names) around the room, or in another room. Then, tell children you are going on a treasure hunt. But this treasure is a bit different than how we normally think of treasure. Encourage children to find the pictures and/or names. Once they have found everything, encourage children to sit in a circle and talk about why these things are treasures.

Pioneering Faithfulness: Deliver the Supplies

Items needed: *a basket and pictures of water, food or a blanket*

Set the basket across the room and give each child a picture. Children take turns carrying their pictures to the 'relief center.' Explain that a relief center is a place where people get help. Edna Lee de Gutiérrez organized one after the 1985 Mexico City earthquake.

DESIGN TEAM

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COURAGEOUS BAPTIST WOMEN

PIONEERING FAITHFULNESS

The Life of Edna Lee de Gutiérrez

Edna Lee de Gutiérrez

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

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.

PARTNERSHIP
LEADERSHIP
EARTHQUAKE
COMPASSION
INJUSTICE
SUFFERING
MINISTRY
CHINESE
MEXICAN
FAMILY
RELIEF
FAITH
POOR
BOLD

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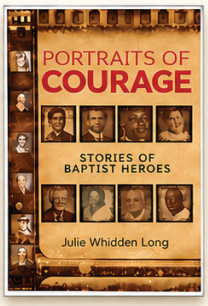
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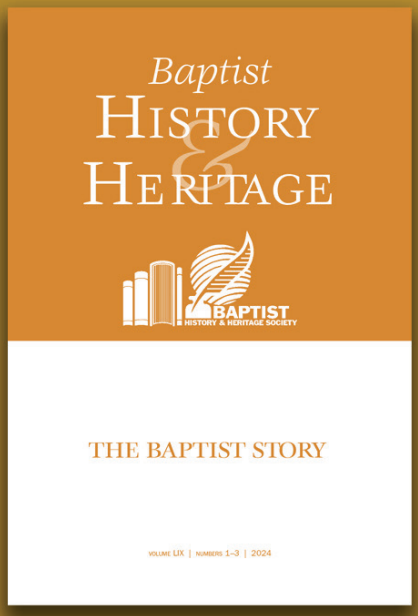


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