



# How to Survive in a World of Unbelievers

*Jesus' Words of Encouragement  
on the Night before His Death*

John MacArthur

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

HOW TO SURVIVE IN A WORLD OF UNBELIEVERS

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# STUDY GUIDE



## CHAPTER 1 THE HUMILITY OF LOVE

### *Summarizing the Chapter*

In contrast to the contemporary emphasis on pride and self-esteem, Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet provides us with the supreme example of loving humility and service to others.

### *Getting Started (Choose One)*

1. Is the problem of an overemphasis on pride and self-esteem as bad within the church as it is in secular society? If not, do you think it ever will be? If it is as bad, why? What influences make the problem what it is?
2. What daily, mundane challenge in our culture do you find most difficult or tiring? How is it a parallel to the ancient need for foot washing and the way the disciples failed to respond to that task? Elaborate on your answer.

### *Answering the Questions*

1. What major transition does John 13 mark in Jesus' earthly ministry?
2. Why would the feet of Jesus and the disciples have been so dirty when they reached the upper room?
3. What was perhaps the lowliest duty slaves in Bible times had to perform?
4. What prevented the disciples from taking care of the foot-washing task in the upper room (see Luke 22:24–26)?
5. What does the Greek expression *eis telos* mean? How does it characterize Jesus' love for others? Give some examples.
6. What statement is a good, concise summary of the theme of 1 Corinthians 13?
7. What, other than his betrayal of Jesus, was so tragic about Judas Iscariot's experience as a "disciple"? How does it help us to better understand the magnitude of Jesus' love?
8. What character traits are most prominent in canceling out one's capacity for love and humility?
9. What is necessary for love to be genuine?
10. When Jesus taught Peter, what pattern of instruction found elsewhere in the Gospel of John did He follow?
11. What must happen to anyone who wants a saving relationship with Jesus?
12. What verse toward the end of the New Testament restates the essence of spiritual foot washing?
13. What do some denominations believe John 13:12–17 is teaching? Is that actually the intent of the passage? What is the real lesson Jesus wants us to follow?

### *Focusing on Prayer*

- Prayerfully allow the Holy Spirit to examine your heart and point out areas of pride and self-centeredness that remain in



your life. Ask God to help you replace them with traits of love and humility.

- Pray for the opportunity to perform an act of loving and humble service for another believer or group of believers.

### *Applying the Truth*

Memorize 1 John 1:9 or 3:18.

## CHAPTER 2 UNMASKING THE BETRAYER

### *Summarizing the Chapter*

The story of Judas Iscariot is the ultimate tragedy, involving perhaps the most despised figure in human history. It culminates in John 13:18–30 by displaying the absolute contrast of good (Jesus) and evil (Judas) and teaching us what it means to forfeit the greatest of spiritual opportunities by stubbornly clinging to sinful desires and evil priorities.

### *Getting Started (Choose One)*

1. If you can, think of an example from your own experience or the news events of your lifetime of a particularly tragic story. Describe it briefly and tell why you think it's noteworthy or comparable to Judas' story.
2. Jesus was extremely patient and longsuffering with Judas over the three years they were together. How many "second chances" are too many? Concerning what issues would you refuse to grant someone another opportunity? Why? What might make you change your mind?

### *Answering the Questions*

1. What bizarre apocryphal story vividly illustrates the extreme contempt many in the early centuries of the church had for Judas?
2. By the end of his life, what sins particularly characterized Judas?
3. For how much did Judas agree with the Jewish leaders to betray Jesus? What did that amount equal in those days?
4. Following the foot washing, why did Jesus tell the disciples about His impending betrayal?
5. For what reasons did the Father and the Son choose Judas to betray Jesus?
6. What did the Old Testament prophesy about Judas' actions in betraying Christ? Cite at least two references.
7. What in the form of a warning is a primary lesson we can learn from the example of Judas Iscariot?
8. What wrong conclusions might the eleven disciples have drawn after hearing about Jesus' upcoming betrayal? But what should they have understood from John 13:20?
9. What does the presence of hypocrites in the church fail to diminish or hinder among real believers? What bearing does the parable of the wheat and tares have on this situation (Matt. 13:24–30)?
10. List some reasons that Judas' betrayal would have caused anguish within Jesus' heart.
11. Describe the seating arrangement Jesus and the disciples used in the upper room. How did that affect the interaction between certain disciples concerning Judas' situation?
12. What kind of dip was used along with the unleavened bread at the Passover meal? What did it signify when the host gave a dipped morsel of bread to someone else at the meal?
13. Why did salvation for Judas finally become impossible (see Heb. 6:4–6)?

14. How did the other disciples misunderstand what was happening when Jesus sent Judas away? What was the true significance of His statement, “What you do, do quickly” (John 13:27)?

### *Focusing on Prayer*

- Pray for the people in your church that they would have pure hearts and be free from hypocrisy.
- Thank God for your relationship to Christ and pray that His Spirit would strengthen it and increase your love for the Savior more each day.

### *Applying the Truth*

Spend some extended time reading and studying the story of Absalom in 2 Samuel 13:23–19:8. In what ways were Absalom and Ahithophel similar to Judas? Different from him? What additional lessons about hypocrisy, treachery, and pride can you draw from that account? What sin do you need to be most on guard against as you serve the Lord?

## CHAPTER 3

### THE MARKS OF THE COMMITTED CHRISTIAN

### *Summarizing the Chapter*

In John 13:31–38, Jesus sets forth the three vital, distinguishing characteristics that should identify every genuine believer: an unending preoccupation with God’s glory, an unfailing love for other believers, and an unswerving loyalty to Christ.

### *Getting Started (Choose One)*

1. What is your opinion of the various external symbols (bumper stickers, tee shirts with slogans or verses, etc.) people use to identify themselves as followers of Christ? Do you use any of them? Why or why not?
2. Many well-known products (foods, beverages, cars, clothing) have characteristics that everyone recognizes. Which products like this come to mind for you? How have their identifying marks influenced your brand loyalty? Are there some brands you will never switch from?

### *Answering the Questions*

1. What is the core reason for which a Christian should live?
2. What aspects of Christ's death on the cross make it the greatest, most glorious work in the history of the universe?
3. What is one of the best ways believers can glorify God?
4. What is another, better-known term for the components of God's glory?
5. Which attribute of God stands out at the Cross above all others?
6. When will the greatest glory of Christ occur? What is necessary for that to be accomplished?
7. What missionary to India was preeminently concerned with the glory of Christ?
8. What system does love eliminate the need for (see Rom. 13:8–10)?
9. Why do various sects and false doctrines have such influence today? What is especially lacking among Christians that otherwise could prevent such confusion?
10. What are two key ways believers can demonstrate visible love?
11. How will a genuine, practiced loyalty manifest itself in the lives of Christ's disciples?

12. In what four ways did Peter temporarily fail the test of loyalty to Jesus?

### *Focusing on Prayer*

- Reflect on the areas in which you are strong and weak in identifying as a Christian. Pray that God would help you to be strong in every area of discipleship.
- Thank the Lord that Christ was glorified after His ascension, and that you too can anticipate future glory.

### *Applying the Truth*

If necessary, seek out a person in your church who needs your forgiveness or who needs to forgive you. Prior to doing this, prayerfully plan what you will say and use Scripture from this chapter to assist you in making things right. Thank the Lord for what the results will be. Meditate on Philippians 2:3–4 as a basis for your words and actions.

## CHAPTER 4

### THE SOLUTION TO A TROUBLED HEART

### *Summarizing the Chapter*

John 14:1–6 is the basis for Christ's true comfort, by means of simple, trusting faith in our Lord's faithful presence, His trustworthy promises of heaven, and the truth of His divine person, which provides the only path to salvation.

### *Getting Started (Choose One)*

1. Our commercialized world advertises many offers of comfort. Which one or ones do you think lure the most people into a false sense of security? What are the most alluring ones for you? Why?
2. Based on pictures you've seen, or actual visits you've made, which city in the world do you consider the most beautiful? What features should a city have to be attractive? Explain.

### *Answering the Questions*

1. Who viewed John 14:1–6 as the most valuable and comforting sermon Jesus ever preached on earth?
2. Why were the disciples so upset and focused on themselves as they listened to Jesus in the upper room?
3. What had reinforced the disciples' one-sided view of Messiah's role and raised their hopes unduly?
4. What basic Old Testament tenet about God, which the disciples would have been familiar with, was Jesus placing Himself on a par with and reminding them of in John 14:1?
5. How is Jesus' invisible presence more advantageous to us than is His visible presence?
6. List three of the four common New Testament synonyms for heaven. What is the special connotation of each?
7. Why is "dwelling places" a more accurate translation than "mansions" in John 14:2?
8. When translated to miles (from Rev. 21:16), how big is heaven in square miles and cubic miles?
9. What kind of materials make up the construction of heaven (see Rev. 21:18–22)?
10. Why should the Christian not be afraid of death?



### *Focusing on Prayer*

- Praise and thank God that Jesus is the perfect comforter and always present when you need Him.
- Ask the Lord to make you more conscious of and excited about the prospect of heaven. And pray for opportunities to share this renewed excitement with others.

### *Applying the Truth*

Memorize Deuteronomy 31:6 or 1 Peter 1:8.

## CHAPTER 5 JESUS IS GOD

### *Summarizing the Chapter*

In John 14:7–14, Jesus continues His ministry of comfort to the disciples by reaffirming His deity; promising that after He goes to the Father they will witness a newer, larger scope of His power; and guaranteeing to meet all their needs, consistent with His character and will.

### *Getting Started (Choose One)*

1. Every year, the prominent secular news magazines have one or two cover stories devoted to some “new finding” that is skeptical about who Jesus was, what Paul really taught, the reliability of the Bible, etc. Do you ever read these articles? Is there any value in them at all? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever felt at a loss or sad when a long-time favorite boss, teacher, or pastor retired or moved away? Did others involved share those feelings? How did you cope with the change?

### *Answering the Questions*

1. What is the single most important issue any fair-minded person must resolve concerning the person of Jesus?
2. What was the basic error of Sabellius' teaching about who Jesus was?
3. According to Jesus, what would have prevented the disciples' confusion and uncertainty about God the Father?
4. What impending events would help the disciples to better understand the relationship of Jesus to the Father?
5. What did Philip's question in John 14:8 reveal about him?
6. Why is it wrong and even dangerous to make supernatural manifestations the basis for Christianity's authenticity?
7. What elements constituted the factual basis for the disciples' faith? What were they doing with that information when they questioned Jesus the night before His death?
8. In what sense were the disciples' works eventually greater than Jesus' works? What helped make that true?
9. What is not meant by the concept of praying in Jesus' name? What does it actually involve, and how should that influence our praying?

### *Focusing on Prayer*

- You might know someone whose faith is wavering. Pray that they would turn back to Scripture and realize afresh the wonderful revealed truths that are the bases of Christianity.
- Give thanks that you have access by faith to the spiritual power Christ made possible by sending us the indwelling Holy Spirit.

### *Applying the Truth*

For more insight on the deity of Christ, read and study John 1:1–18 or Colossians 1:9–20. What parallels or additional material do you see in that passage compared to John 14:7–14?

## CHAPTER 6

### THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES TO COMFORT

### *Summarizing the Chapter*

In John 14:15–26, Jesus reaches the heart of His message on comfort by extending to disciples of all eras a number of promises, all related to the coming of the Holy Spirit—and all providing every spiritual resource and security believers will ever need to minister effectively for Him.

### *Getting Started (Choose One)*

1. At your job do you work independently or do you rely consistently on input and support from others? Which situation do you prefer? How do you react when others fail to provide the assistance you need?
2. What is the best childhood promise you remember receiving (that was fulfilled)? How did you feel when you received what was promised? What did you wish for as a child that never occurred?

### *Answering the Questions*

1. Understanding what biblical dichotomy will give believers a good grip on the basics of their faith?
2. What is a good one-word definition of true discipleship?

3. What is the literal meaning of the Greek word *parakletos*? How is it translated in most English Bibles?
4. Why is it crucial that we also understand the precise meaning of the Greek adjective *allos* (John 14:16)?
5. Who are the two *paracletes* all Christians have?
6. What is the quality of the unregenerate's perception of spiritual truth?
7. From their reading of the Old Testament, what would the disciples have known of the Holy Spirit's ministry?
8. Concerning their relationship to believers, what do the members of the Trinity have in common?
9. What became clear to Peter and the other apostles on the day of Pentecost?
10. What is the key point of Jesus' answer to Judas' (Thaddaeus') question (John 14:22–24)?
11. Must love and obedience to Christ be perfectly demonstrated in order to be real? Explain, and cite several verses.
12. In whose stead does the Holy Spirit teach? How comprehensive is the “all things” He imparts to believers (see John 14:26)?
13. What was so important about Jesus' promise that the disciples would remember the things He taught them? What Christian doctrine derives from that promise?

### *Focusing on Prayer*

- Thank the Lord for His faithfulness in providing us with His inspired, written Word, which contains all the comfort and resources we need to live for Him.
- Pray that God would daily grant you a greater awareness and appreciation of your union with Him.

### *Applying the Truth*

Memorize and meditate on one or more of the following verses: Matthew 10:19; Romans 8:17; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 1 John 2:1.

## CHAPTER 7 THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### *Summarizing the Chapter*

True biblical peace with all its benefits is a gift of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to all believers. It is perfected only as Christians study God's Word and allow the Spirit to direct their hearts and minds away from troubling circumstances and on to the person of Christ.

### *Getting Started (Choose One)*

1. How would you measure your personal "at peace quotient"? Would it be high or low, according to scriptural definitions? Do you have a tendency to let life's difficult circumstances rob you of peace? If so, why do you think that has been true?
2. Do you think diplomatic and political efforts to achieve peace in various regions of the world are worthwhile? Do some conflicts deserve more of those efforts than others? Which ones? Discuss briefly.

### *Answering the Questions*

1. How does the meaning of the Hebrew word *shalom* capture the essence of biblical peace?
2. What two kinds of peace does the New Testament refer to?
3. What is the main result of the gospel message (see 2 Cor. 5:18–19)?

4. Which kind of peace does Jesus mention in John 14:27? What are its main characteristics (see Phil. 4:7)?
5. How did Jesus exhibit perfect experiential peace before Pilate (John 19:10–11)?
6. How meaningful has the expression “world peace” been over the centuries?
7. What is the basic reason people in the world can’t find true peace on their own? Give a Bible verse to support your answer.
8. During the time of what prophet was the futility of the world’s peace especially evident?
9. In what time frames do people who are experiencing anxiety and turmoil tend to dwell?
10. Why does the analogy of an umpire emerge from Colossians 3:15? What does that suggest about the role of God’s peace?
11. What other favorable results, both for the body of Christ and individual Christians, should result from genuine peace (Col. 3:15; 2 Cor. 4:8–11; 11:24–29)?

### *Focusing on Prayer*

- If you are struggling with troublesome circumstances or a difficult trial now, pray that the Lord would give you an extra measure of His peace and help you look away from the problem and toward Him.
- Pray for someone who is facing a complex decision in the near future. Ask that they would allow God’s true peace to arbitrate and reveal His will.

### *Applying the Truth*

For the next several months, keep a “peace journal”—either as a separate notebook, or as part of your devotional journal or prayer diary. List the Scripture references from this chapter that were particularly



helpful and refer to them when the going gets rough. Keep track of significant anxious times, stressful circumstances, and difficult trials. For each experience, record how well (or poorly) you reacted. Did you have a sense of true peace during and after each situation? Were you successful in looking beyond the circumstances to the peace Christ provides? Write down ways in which you can better maintain a level of biblical peace no matter what's happening around you.

## CHAPTER 8

### WHAT JESUS' DEATH MEANT TO HIM

#### *Summarizing the Chapter*

The disciples anticipated Jesus' death with fear and sorrow, but He looked forward to the Cross with joyful eagerness because of what He would accomplish there: He would experience the Father's exaltation, He would make way for the documentation of more prophecies about His person and work, He would finally and decisively defeat the plans of Satan, and He would demonstrate His obedient love for His Father.

#### *Getting Started (Choose One)*

1. Have you and your spouse (or good friend, or close relative) ever anticipated the same event in completely opposite ways? Did you try to persuade the other person to your outlook? What was the biggest lesson you learned after the event was over?
2. Do you think most Christians have the right perspective on death? What would be some major obstacles to keep them from viewing it as God does?

### *Answering the Questions*

1. What were the major elements composing the disciples' faulty outlook of Jesus' upcoming death and departure?
2. Humanly speaking, what is one of the most incomprehensible truths about Christ's incarnation?
3. In John 17:4–5, what was Jesus looking ahead to with joy? How did His divine foreknowledge make that joy more complete (see Heb. 12:2)?
4. What straightforward method did Jesus often use to strengthen the apostles' faith? List some examples of this method.
5. When was the plan of redemption determined?
6. In John 14:30, what does Jesus call Satan?
7. What was Satan's long-term position and strategy regarding the person and mission of Christ?
8. How did the Cross affect the devil's fate? What are the practical implications of this?
9. What does each New Testament mention of Jesus' obedience imply about His relationship to God the Father?

### *Focusing on Prayer*

- Pray that God through His Word would instill in you a greater attitude of humility and servanthood—one that would more closely conform to Jesus' example.
- Thank the Lord that Christ's death and resurrection stripped Satan of any lasting power over us. Ask Him to remind you of this truth whenever you are facing severe temptation.

### *Applying the Truth*

Read *The Murder of Jesus* by John MacArthur, or memorize Philippians 2:6–10.

## CHAPTER 9

### THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

#### *Summarizing the Chapter*

In John 15:1–6, Jesus uses the metaphor of vine and branches to begin His teaching on spiritual abiding. The vine is Christ, the vinedresser the Father, the fruit-bearing branches are believers, and the fruitless branches are those who merely appear to be genuine believers.

#### *Getting Started (Choose One)*

1. Jesus used many agrarian metaphors and analogies when He taught. Would He do that if He were teaching on earth today? What high-tech illustrations might He use? What factors might guide His selection of illustrations?
2. Have you ever known anyone whom you thought was a Christian but discovered later that they “left the faith”? What proved that they were not really a believer? For you, what was the most difficult aspect about that experience?

#### *Answering the Questions*

1. What do all the “I am” passages in the Gospel of John underscore about Jesus’ identity?
2. How do the characters involved in Christ’s upper room discourse make clear the meaning of His metaphors in John 15?
3. How would some Bible students explain Judas’ fate? What verses disprove that explanation? What are some basic characteristics of apostates, or false branches?
4. In what way does the Old Testament use a vine as an important metaphor?
5. Give three reasons that Jesus chose the figure of a vine.

6. What inadequate substitutes do professed Christians often rely on for fruitfulness?
7. What is the twofold duty of the Vinedresser (John 15:2)?
8. What is the essence of the Christian life? Does that essence always appear exactly the same?
9. Can someone be attached to the Vine without being a true branch (cite specific references)?
10. What is one of the most frequent and effective ways God prunes us to produce spiritual fruitfulness? What does He use as His pruning knife?

### *Focusing on Prayer*

- Ask the Lord to keep you faithful in His Word every day so that you might abide closer and closer to Christ.
- Pray for a fellow Christian who may be currently undergoing the trials and suffering of God's pruning.

### *Applying the Truth*

Memorize Ephesians 2:10 and seek an opportunity within the next month to do a biblical good work for someone you know. (Try to minister to the person or family with something that is more than just a brief "favor.")

## CHAPTER 10

### THE BENEFITS OF LIFE IN CHRIST

### *Summarizing the Chapter*

In John 15:7–11, Jesus continues His instruction on abiding and describes what will typify life for the fruitful believer. Genuine spiritual fruitfulness—which includes Christ-like character, gratitude,

helpfulness to the needy, pure conduct, and converts—will result in the blessings of answered prayer, abundant life, fullness of joy, and eternal security.

### *Getting Started (Choose One)*

1. When you were a new believer, did you accurately understand spiritual fruitfulness? What was your biggest misconception?
2. It's easy to look to people and things other than Jesus Christ for spiritual success. Which ones of these inadequate alternatives lure you away from the Vine most easily? Why do you think that is?

### *Answering the Questions*

1. What earthly factors are excluded concerning the success or failure of producing spiritual fruit?
2. Approximately how many times does the Bible use the basic word for fruit? Has that frequency of usage meant that most Christians understand the concept?
3. List, along with a relevant Scripture reference, the five main examples of genuine spiritual fruit.
4. How did Jesus and the disciples demonstrate patience in evangelism (see John 4:35–38)?
5. What two conditions are attached to the promise of answered prayer?
6. What is the overriding purpose for the life of every believer? What will each experience if he or she follows that purpose?
7. What kind of attitude causes many Christians not to experience God's joy?
8. Why are some seemingly good branches cast away from the Vine? Can that ever happen to the genuine believer? What does Scripture say?

### *Focusing on Prayer*

- Praise and thank God that He, not us, is the source of our fruitfulness, and that we have the privilege of abiding in His Son.
- Pray for a friend or relative who may not be experiencing the blessings of abiding in Christ. Ask God to give them a fresher, closer relationship to Christ—or a relationship for the very first time (if they're not saved).

### *Applying the Truth*

Do a more in-depth study on the concept of fruitfulness. Look more carefully (using a study Bible, concordance, commentaries, etc.) at the many references mentioned in that beginning section of this chapter. Prayerfully devise a plan for how you might improve in one area of fruitfulness.

## CHAPTER 11 HOW TO BE A FRIEND OF JESUS

### *Summarizing the Chapter*

In John 15:12–16, Jesus shares with His disciples and us these essential characteristics and reassurances concerning intimate friendship with Him: obedience to Him, love for each other, special insight into divine truth, and the call to positions of ministry.

### *Getting Started (Choose One)*

1. Generally speaking, what types of people are easiest to make friends with? What one aspect of friendship do you appreciate the most? Why? Would you ever trade it for some other friendship benefit?



2. Would you enjoy being a special friend, close adviser, or confidant to an important government leader or famous person? What would be the advantages and disadvantages? Discuss briefly.

### *Answering the Questions*

1. What is the Greek word for “servant”? What connotation did it have for the disciples?
2. Who was the only Old Testament figure known as the friend of God?
3. What condition was essential and implied in all the metaphors Jesus used concerning intimate friendship with Him?
4. What should be natural for true friends of Jesus to show toward other Christians?
5. What do we have in common with other believers? What actions and feelings toward them should that motivate?
6. What was the conventional relationship between slaves and masters in biblical times?
7. Which of Jesus’ teaching tools was particularly effective in imparting special knowledge to the disciples?
8. In mentioning or discussing the topic of election, the scriptural context always goes beyond what doctrine to include what other concept?
9. In the end, how should a believer’s life be different from an unbeliever’s?

### *Focusing on Prayer*

- Thank God for His loving and gracious willingness through Christ to make you His friend. Pray that your obedience would deepen that friendship.
- Pray for your church that each member would truly appreciate

the divine truth they've received and realize they are to use it as God-ordained servants of the Lord Jesus.

### *Applying the Truth*

Memorize 1 John 3:16–18 or Romans 5:5.

## CHAPTER 12 HATED WITHOUT A CAUSE

### *Summarizing the Chapter*

In John 15:17–25 Christ makes the transition from discussing His love for believers to warning of the world's hatred of them. He alerts the disciples that suffering and persecution will be unavoidable for true Christians because (1) Christians are not of the world, (2) the world hates Christ and the things that pertain to Him, and (3) the world does not know God.

### *Getting Started (Choose One)*

1. What's your opinion of the popular interest in angels in recent years? Does it help or hinder the church's proclamation of the gospel?
2. If it were in your power, what one aspect about the world's system would you eliminate overnight? Why does that one come to mind?

### *Answering the Questions*

1. How and why did the Greek term *martus* evolve in meaning?

2. What does history record about the world's treatment of the apostles after Jesus left?
3. What were Roman citizens required to do annually? What value did that have in the eyes of officials?
4. How did the Apostle John use the word *kosmos* in John 15:19?
5. Throughout history, what has been the most aggressive opponent of real Christianity?
6. What is an inescapable fact of godly living (2 Tim. 3:12)? Why don't more Christians experience it? Give several reasons.
7. What is wrong and unrealistic for churches to expect the world to do regarding its need for salvation?
8. What is the true nature and result of the world's seeming tolerance of Jesus and "spiritual things"?
9. What kind of extreme error and confusion does Satan welcome as much as he does the opportunity to persecute the true church?
10. What is the world's basic approach to religion?
11. What is the real reason people reject the truth about God?
12. Why was the Jews' rejection of Jesus so complete and irreversible? Whose words from the Old Testament did it fulfill?

### *Focusing on Prayer*

- Pray for the pastors and missionaries you know, and all who are ministering the gospel around the world, that God would grant them abundant amounts of strength and courage to withstand opposition and persecution.
- Pray for several people by name from your neighborhood, workplace, or school who are part of the world's darkness and don't know God or the salvation offered through Christ. Ask Him to make you a bolder witness to them.

### *Applying the Truth*

Read and meditate on Nehemiah 1–6. Consider what lessons you can draw in dealing with opposition and staying with the task God has given you.