

Session 7: God's Deliverance Suggested Week of Use: July 13, 2025 Core Passage: Psalm 18:16-29

News Story Summary

Does your house have a safe space? In Israeli homes, the safe space is called a *mamad*, which is a room built with reinforced concrete to help protect residents against missile attacks. Jewish homes built since 1993 are required to have a *mamad*. However, 57 percent of homes still do not have this safe space and at least a quarter of Israel's citizens have no public bomb shelter in their community. Millions of Israelis are unprotected from missile attacks beyond the military's "Iron Dome" missile defense system guarding their skies. Significant defense gaps also exist in the air and on the ground for citizens living in northern and southern Israel. Falling shrapnel from detonated bombs and nonexistent, defunct, or limited emergency shelters plague lower economic and sparsely populated areas. Inadequate preparedness for civilians also represents a problem.

For more information on this story, search "Israelis lack mamad protection."

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, ask: When you enter a building, how often do you think about things like safety features or emergency exits? Discuss responses. Point out that during weather events, we're often encouraged to go to our "safe space," a secure area of our homes. Note that some parts of the world need even more security. Share the information about Israel's emergency preparedness and the gaps in its system. Emphasize the peace that comes from having a genuine sense of security. Explain that this session focuses on Psalm 18, a psalm written by David as he reflected on how God shielded and rescued him during times of overwhelming calamity. Challenge adults to consider their struggles and how God can be their spiritual "safe space" moving forward.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, ask: As you reflect on your life, when have you experienced God's faithfulness? Invite a few volunteers to share brief testimonies about those times. Remind them that God does protect and defend those who belong to Him, but He also walks with them through any trial. Remind adults about the steps Israelis take to build safe spaces to protect themselves from enemy attacks. Point out that God's shelter is better than any "Iron Dome" or reinforced room. Lead adults in prayer, asking God to help each person seek His shelter this week and to reflect His light to those who still need to know Him.