

## **News Story Summary**

Old Faithful is one of more than five hundred geysers in Yellowstone National Park, the world's oldest national park. For the last thirty years, it has erupted about twenty times a day with a prediction confidence rate of 90 percent. From boardwalks and other safe viewing areas, four million visitors a year see evidence of Old Faithful's volcanic activity, fueled by molten rock less than three miles below the surface. Its eruptions can exceed 180 feet and last for as long as five minutes. During its longer eruptions, the geyser can expel as much as 8,400 gallons of water that can measure more than 200 degrees. Its steam can reach temperatures of 350 degrees. Sixty percent of the world's geysers are in Yellowstone with 150 of them within one square mile. There are many trails to explore in the park's 2.2 million acres, but safety is the number one concern when visitors are watching ten thousand geothermal features, such as geysers, hot springs, pools, stem vents and mud pots—not to mention the wildlife.

For more information on this story, search "About Old Faithful."

## Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, ask: *What does it mean to be faithful? What examples of faithfulness do we see in the world today?* Discuss responses. Share the information about the Old Faithful geyser in Yellowstone National Park. Allow volunteers who have seen the geyser erupt to share their experiences. Note that as marvelous as Old Faithful might be, experts say it's not even the most "faithful" geyser in Yellowstone. Point out that humans are a lot like that because even the best of us are never 100 percent reliable. Say: *In contrast, God is completely reliable. He not only created geysers like Old Faithful with His power, but He is also faithful to meet the needs of those who trust Him.* Share that this session is taken from Psalm 105, a song that praises God for His faithfulness. Encourage adults to reflect on God's faithfulness as they dig into today's verses.

## Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, ask: *Why is it important to remember special times in our spiritual lives*? Encourage adults to share a few responses. Remind them that God has been faithful through thousands of centuries. Point back to the information regarding Old Faithful. Say: *As the Creator of Old Faithful and all of nature, He is faithful even when we are not.* Ask: *Why are we so forgetful? Why is it important to recall God's faithfulness to His people?* Lead the group in reciting the memory verses for this session, Psalm 105:1-2. Challenge them to use these verses as a prayer prompt as they celebrate God's faithfulness and express their gratitude to Him.