

## News Story Summary

Terrorists attacked Charlie Hebdo on January 7, a satirical weekly magazine that printed satirical articles on religion, politics, and culture. Terrorists also attacked police officers and a kosher market the following day. In all 17 people were killed. It was the worst terrorist attacks in France in 50 years.

On January 11 of this year, approximately 3.7 million people marched throughout France as a show of unity. People came together as a community in response to deadly terror attacks by Islamic extremists. The rally was the largest rally in French history.

Publishers and employees of Charlie Hebdo had received threats prior to the attack. Additional threats have been made toward police and other groups since the attacks. The publishers of the magazine have vowed to continue. The first issue of the magazine after the attack featured on the cover a cartoon of the Prophet Mohammed holding a sign that read, "Je suis Charlie," ("we are Charlie) with the caption, "Tout est pardonne," (all is forgiven).

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrases "march in France," "Paris rally," and "Charlie Hebdo.")

## Focus Attention

Prior to the study on the board, write the word *threats*.

As the group arrives, call attention to the word. Lead the group to discuss the impact a threat issued may have on a person. Ask: *In what situations to threats make a person more determined?*

Share the story about rallies held throughout France in response to recent terrorist attacks in France. Emphasize Charlie Hebdo's response to the terrorist attacks. Ask: *Do you think the initial threats made the group more determined? Explain. How do the new threats feed the resolve of the magazine and the people of France?*

Say: *Nehemiah faced threats from Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab, all who did not want the wall around Jerusalem to be completed. During today's study, look for how the threats impacted the work of Nehemiah and how he responded to each threat.*

## **Challenge**

Remind the group of the story about the rallies in France following terrorist attacks. Emphasize how the threats are making people more determined and focused. Compare that to Nehemiah's response.

Lead the group to identify threats they may face to completing God-given assignments. Guide the group to discuss how these threats could make the group more determined and focused. Ask them to reflect on rather they would follow Nehemiah's example and pray for their enemies. Challenge them to strive to understand and develop the heart of Jesus when facing adversity.

Lead in prayer, asking God to enable group members to stand strong in adverse situations, and when faced with them to respond in prayer and forgiveness as followers of Jesus Christ.