

## News Story Summary

A winter storm forecast for the Northeast on Monday, January 26, sent shoppers scurrying for milk and bread. In a panic, shoppers grabbed all the milk and bread off the shelves of many grocery stores. One manager in a New York specialty shop said that people act like the world is coming to an end so they clean the stores out of everything. But the question remains baffling: why the milk-and-bread buy up? It has been determined that milk and bread are not the best survivor foods. Milk will sour if the refrigerator loses power, and bread is not of much use past its expiration date. There are other foods that are more suitable for storage, but milk and bread seem to always be on the top of everyone's list for storm preparation.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrases "crazy for milk and bread," and "milk and bread in storm.")

## Focus Attention

Prior to the study, secure a loaf of bread and a carton of milk (empty is fine). As the group arrives, call attention to the two items asking the group to determine how these two items are related.

After most have arrived, share briefly about the storm that gripped the Northeast on January 26-27. Also share the story about people's response to the forecast. Ask: *Why do you think people make a run for bread and milk when facing a storm? What items might a person purchase in preparation for a storm?*

Say: *Following the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem, the people gathered in front of one of the gates. They requested that Ezra read the Book of the Law and proper preparation was made.* Compare the purchasing of items prior to a storm to the preparation required to hearing God's Word.

Challenge the group to discover actions taken by the leaders and the group so that people could hear and understand what was being read.

## Challenge

Remind the group of the rush to buy milk and bread in the face of a storm. Ask: *What would happen if we approached the study of the Word of God like we approach the purchase of milk and bread with a storm approaching? How does seeking the truth in Scripture help deepen our faith?*

Challenge group members to prepare for next week's Bible study by reading the Scripture passages for the lesson. Ask them to call someone else in the group to discuss the passages and identify any questions. Encourage them to make seeking the truth a habit in their personal Bible study.

Lead in prayer, asking God to help the group prepare to study and understand the truth of His Word so that their faith will deepen and they can observe it in their hearts and in their lives at all times.