

News Story Summary

This year's Gallup poll concerning Americans' trust in news reported by the mass media was conducted on September 7-11. The results show that Americans' trust and confidence in the mass media to report the news fully, accurately, and fairly has dropped to its lowest level in Gallup polling history. Only 32% say they have a great deal or fair amount of trust in the media. This is down eight percentage points from last year. Gallup began asking this question in 1972, and on a yearly basis since 1997. Trust and confidence hit its highest point in 1976 at 72%. After staying in the low to mid-50s through the late 1990s and into the early years of the new century, Americans' trust in the media has fallen slowly and steadily. It has consistently been below 50% since 2007.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "Gallup poll trust in media".)

Focus Attention

Open the session by sharing information from the news story. Ask: *What level of confidence do you place in the accuracy of news you hear from the media? How important is it trust when it comes to news reporting?* Point out that today's lesson from 2 Peter 1 is a reminder that Christians can always place complete trust and confidence in God's Word. Challenge the group to look for reasons Peter gave for trusting God's Word.

Challenge

Remind the group of the news story. Ask: *Do you think people's confidence in the Bible has decreased as well in our culture? Explain.* Lead the group to identify insights gained from today's study that could be shared with someone who has doubts about the Scriptures. List ideas on the board. Encourage the group to commit to using at least one of the ideas to help someone overcome their doubts and place their trust in God's Word.