

News Story Summary

In an episode aired on October 28, the ABC show 20/20, revealed their findings in an undercover investigation of Genesis II Church of Health and Healing. Leaders of the church state that one can become a member by believing in: doing good deeds, good health for all mankind, doing what is right, freedom for all mankind, and enlightening others with truth. The church claims its sacrament known as Miracle Mineral Solution (MMS) is a gift from god that can cure virtually anything from the common cold, cancer, autism, and HIV. They encourage followers to use it themselves and to give it to their children. The church has been able to sell millions of MMS kits worldwide.

The ABC investigation revealed that the solution is actually a potent bleach that can cause nausea, vomiting, and dehydration. The show told the story of Doug Nash whose wife Sylvia took the solution in 2009 to ward off malaria in a small south Pacific country. She became very sick and died of dehydration. The maker of the solution has been convicted of criminal charges. Despite this and FDA warnings, some believers still consider MMS their religious sacrament. “We’re going to stand up as a church,” self-proclaimed Genesis II Archbishop Mark Grenon told attendees at a seminar held last month.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase “ABC 20/20 story on Genesis II Church.)

Focus Attention

Begin by relay the news story to the group. Ask: *Why do you think people are willing to believe the promises made by this group?* Lead the group to identify questionable teachings being spread in our world. Explain that people were led astray by false prophets in New Testament days just as they are today. Invite the group to join you in studying 2 Peter 2:1-3 and Jude 16-25 to determine how this happens, how we can avoid being led astray, and how we can help others who have fallen victim.

Challenge

To supplement Summarize and Challenge, remind the group of the news story. Ask: *If you were a friend to a person who was considering joining this group, what would you tell them? What principles discovered in today’s study would you follow or communicate?* Also, compile a list of actions we can take to guard ourselves against being led astray.