



Session 1: ENTRUSTED
Suggested Week of Use: March 6, 2016
Core Passages: Acts 1:1-11

News Story Summary

According to the National World War II museum website, approximately every three minutes a memory of World War II—its sights and sounds, its terrors and triumphs—disappears. Yielding to the inalterable process of aging, the men and women who fought and won the great conflict are now mostly in their 90s. They are dying quickly—at the rate of approximately 430 a day, according to US Veterans Administration figures. Of the sixteen million Americans who served in World War II, less than seven hundred thousand remain alive to tell their stories of the experience.

(For more on this story, visit www.nationalww2museum.org/honor/wwii-veterans-statistics.html)

Focus Attention

As the group arrives, ask them to name any veterans of World War II they know personally. Invite them to retell stories of a World War II veteran shared with them. After a couple of people have shared, ask: *Why do you think it is important to hear the stories of veterans?* Allow for discussion, then share a summary from the news story about the death rate World War II veterans. Comment that preserving their stories is important for the next generation. We honor their memory, we learn from their example, and hopefully we avoid repeating the same mistakes.

Introduce this quarter's unit of study by pointing out that the full title of usually used for the book of Acts is "The Acts of the Apostles." The first 12 chapters in particular detail the stories of Jesus' remaining 11 disciples. In one sense, these are the stories of the "veterans." As the title of today's study points out, Jesus "entrusted" the spreading of the gospel to these men. Point out that just as we can learn a lot from the stories of "The Greatest Generation," we also can learn a great deal by studying the stories of the "First Generation" of the church.

Challenge

Remind group members of the opening illustration. Emphasize the urgency felt by some of the surviving veterans to share their stories. Point out that the stories of World War II veterans have been entrusted to the next generation to be shared. Remind the group that the message of the gospel is also entrusted to us as believers. Challenge the group to silently identify one person with whom they will seek to share about Jesus in the next week. Close in prayer, asking for courage to be good stewards of the gospel message.