

## News Story Summary

Over 7,000 people endured extreme temperatures in Las Cruces, New Mexico, to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bataan Death March. In March of 1942, American and Filipino POWs were marched 60-70 miles in five days with little sustenance or support. Many died of exposure, while those who could not keep up were summarily executed.

The March 19<sup>th</sup> event held at the White Sands Missile Range was the 28<sup>th</sup> annual and attracted the largest attendance to date. The reasons participants gave for attending and enduring the grueling hike were remembering lost family members, honoring the survivors (eight of which attended this year), and “keeping the story alive”.

(For more on this, search the Internet using the phrase “Thousands march to mark 75th”.)

## Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea share the news story and ask: *Does the tragedy of the Bataan Death March still resonate 75 years later? Why is it important to remember those types of events?*

Explain to the group that the phrase “Do this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19) shows that Jesus wanted us to commemorate His death with our minds focused on the reason for His death and to allow it to impact our lives.

## Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, remind group members of the news summary and ask: *Have you noticed that people are willing to commit time and resources to many causes that are important to them? How will you allow the significance of the Lord’s Supper to impact your actions?* Lead the group to realize that simple remembrance is never enough; we should commit ourselves to Christ’s cause. Lead the group to choose one way they can commit their time and resources to show or share Jesus this week.