

News Story Summary

A new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revealed that Alzheimer's disease in the U.S. rose 55 percent over a 15-year period. During the same period, the death rate of people with Alzheimer's disease rose from 16.5 deaths per 100,000 people to 25.4 deaths per 100,000. More than 5 million adults suffer from Alzheimer's, but that number is expected to rise to 16 million by 2050.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "death rate from Alzheimer's disease.")

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea and the discussion about the quote about failing to learn from the past, read the news story summary about the death rate of Alzheimer's. Ask: *How can the new data about Alzheimer's help today's doctors, patients, and families? What is the benefit of knowing the number of people with the disease will rise over the coming years?* Explain that currently, there is not a cure for Alzheimer's, so researchers are studying people with the disease with the hope that they can help prevent and manage the disease in the future. Also, based on what has happened in the past, researchers can predict the future of the disease.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, say: Asaph appealed to the Israelites to learn from the past; however, they did not listen and rebelled against God. Remind group members of the news story summary. Ask: *What does research have in common with history?* Explain that both help people who live in the present to potentially live better lives with the hope of correcting or preventing mistakes. If people don't pay attention to the research about the death rate of Alzheimer's, many may suffer needlessly. If the Israelites had listened to Asaph's warning, Israel would not have suffered. Challenge group members to learn from the past. Suggest that they begin a family journal that can be reviewed every year. Encourage them to plan spiritual and other improvements for the family based on what has occurred the past year.