

News Story Summary

The Atlanta Braves have not had a stellar year in 2017. However, the Braves recently enjoyed three walk-off wins in a four-day stretch, something they haven't done since 1930. These walk-off wins came in a variety of ways, highlighting a variety of players (Kurt Suzuki, Ender Inciarte, and Lane Adams), but all with the same result: victory!

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term "2017 Atlanta Braves Walk Off Wins in September.")

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea, ask a group member who enjoys baseball to explain what's so special about a walk-off win in baseball. (By definition, a walk-off win is a victory achieved by the home team when that team is trailing or tied in the ninth inning and then scores in the bottom of the ninth inning or later.)

Provide brief details about the Atlanta Braves' experience of three walk-off wins in a four-day stretch. Ask: *If you were the batter with an opportunity to win the game, how would you want to do that? How would delivered the decisive hit give a player confidence for the future?*

Comment: *The Israelites were finally on their way to the promised land. Just when things were looking up, they found themselves up against what appeared to be an insurmountable challenge. As we study Exodus 14, look for how God surprised them with a victory.*

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge idea, remind the group of the walk-off wins. Ask: *How would you celebrate after being down to the final at-bat in the bottom of the ninth and then delivering the winning hit (or walk) to secure victory? How would that celebration compare to the celebration of the Israelites?*

Ask group members to silently consider their response to these questions: *What would victory look like in your life today? Do you know for certain that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior of your life? Have you thanked Him for that victory and for other victories in your life? What situation do you need to trust to Him today?*

Close in a time of prayer, thanking God for victories in the past but also asking Him to provide victories for the needs of group members today.