

### News Story Summary

In Pakistan, the Sunni and the Shia Muslims clash often because of religious beliefs. However, Qassim who is a Shia said he had not personally experienced any conflict, even though he had many Sunni friends. Qassim soon moved to Qatar, where he met Omar, an Indian-born Sunni. Qassim and Omar became the closest of friends. But Omar did not know that Qassim was a Shia. So with confidence in their friendship, Qassim decided to tell his friend. Initially, Omar said it did not matter, but then Omar ignored Qassim's texts and emails and finally sent Qassim a message that included this sentence, "I could not be friends with someone like you."

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "faithful friend to the test.")

### Focus Attention

To supplement the discussion about the psalmist warning not to trust in man, read the news story summary about Qassim and Omar. Ask: *Why do you think Qassim trusted his friendship with Omar in spite of the religious differences?* For the most part, Qassim believed that Omar would behave in a predictable manner. Most of us have this type of faith in human nature, unless we are betrayed. In Psalm 146, the psalmist warned of the shiftiness of humans. He said they can't be trusted; he also described the activities and attributes of God that proved, unlike humans, God's faithfulness can be trusted.

### Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, remind group members of the news story summary. Emphasize that human friendships come and go. Contrast human relationships with a relationship with God. Explain that God's attributes and activities prove God is faithful. He deserves to be worshiped, because we can trust Him. Ask rhetorically: *To what extent do you trust God with your money, your family, your very life?* Challenge group members to determine to trust God completely so that worship will extend from hearts that are confident of God's faithfulness.