

News Story Summary

On September 19, Mexico City felt the brunt of a destructive earthquake in Mexico City. Following a 1985 quake, the city adopted new building codes that experts consider to be among the best building standards in the world. Yet scholars, officials, and building inspectors all agree that the newer standards were not enforced as they should be. A 2016 study of 150 random buildings that were constructed after the new building standards were in place showed that many failed to meet the standards. The survey revealed that 71 percent failed to meet a high threshold of compliance with the city's building standards, while 36 percent failed to meet even the lower threshold of compliance. The laws designed to protect the city's people and buildings are in place, but they are not being enforced.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term "Mexico City earthquake buildings".)

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea, share the news story above. Lead the group to discuss the consequences that might happen when people ignore standards set in place for safety and protection. Explain: *In today's Bible passage, we will see that God has given us a clear standard for holy living.* Then continue with the Transition under Focus Attention in the leader guide.

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, remind the group of the news article. Note that while the standards were put in place to protect against earthquake damage, some chose to ignore or take short cuts around the standards. Discuss: *What dangers do we risk when we chose to ignore or take short cuts around the standards God has put in place for us?* Continue by asking the questions included under Summarize and Challenge: *Do we give holy living the priority it should have in our lives today? Explain. What practical steps can we take to pursue holy living in the days ahead?*