

### News Story Summary

Getting into the top colleges/universities can be a challenge, even for the best students. In May 2018, Business Insider published a list of the “hardest colleges to get into in America.” Their rankings were based on a combination of the college’s acceptance rates and their students’ SAT/ACT scores. Harvard University tops the list as the hardest college to get into. Harvard accepts only 5% of the students who apply. Stanford University comes in second on the list, also with an acceptance rate of 5%. Yale University is third with an acceptance rate of 6%. Fourth on the list is Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where the acceptance rate is 8%. Rounding out the top 5 hardest colleges to get into is California Institute of Technology, where 8% of students who apply are accepted. At these five schools, more than 90% of the students who apply are rejected.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “hardest colleges to get into 2018”.)

### Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea, share the news story above. Note that even excellent students can find themselves excluded from some of these universities. Then continue by reading the paragraph under the First Thoughts section and invite the group to respond to the questions (PSG, p. 19; DDG, p. 21): *Can you remember a time when you were not welcomed by a group for some reason? What do the requirements for joining an organization or group reveal about what they value or their reason for existence?*

### Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, remind the group of the news article naming the universities that are the hardest to get into. Note that in contrast to some of the areas of our lives where we might feel “excluded,” God’s family is a place where every one of us is welcomed. Stress that God’s offer of salvation is issued to all. Continue by asking the questions under Challenge: *How can you use the teachings on justification by faith to encourage others to give their lives to Jesus and find life and purpose in Him? Who can you encourage this week?*