

CONNECTION

Warmly welcome everyone as they arrive, then start things off by sharing some funny and bizarre true news stories. Ask for four volunteers and give each volunteer one of the stories from "And the Crowd Goes Wild!" handout (p. 43). Have volunteers take turns reading their stories aloud. Then ask:

- Which of these stories was the funniest or most bizarre? Why?
- Which of these groups of fans seemed the most devoted? Why?
- What are some other funny or bizarre things you know of that people have done because they're followers of a person or group?

Say: Phish, the Bulls, Andrew Jackson, and Jessica Simpson may have had devoted followers, but none of them compare to the followers of Jesus. We're going to learn more about Jesus' followers and what it means to be a follower of Jesus today.