



So what’s been going on in your world? Check out some of these events that have occurred within the past week. An earthquake in Italy wiped out most of one entire town, including well over 200 people. Tornadoes destroyed homes and businesses in central Indiana. Floods swept away people and their possessions in Louisiana. Fires continued to rage in California. Hundreds of thousands of refugees struggled to survive in makeshift tent cities in several countries. At least 300 people have been killed and more than 6 million have lost homes, power, roads, and possessions as monsoon rains have flooded parts of eastern and central India. And in Kabul, Afghanistan, a university was bombed by terrorist attackers, killing seven students and five guards.

The needs are huge. The destruction is devastating. Sometimes it feels too big to do anything at all. Maybe even too big to think about.

But if we are ever going to try to tell the world about Jesus, then we at least have to begin by caring about the child pulled from the rubble of his bombed home, the students mourning the loss of their friends, and the people watching their furniture be carried away in the river. We can start by caring enough to hear their stories, to learn their names and the names of their cities, and to lift them up in prayer.

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above article to read. Then discuss it in this way:

Which of the events mentioned in the article had you already heard about? How did you hear about them? Where do you go to read about news stories from around the world?

How do you feel when you hear about events like this? What actions do you take? What motivates you to take those actions (whether it is turning away, or donating money, or praying, or just becoming worried)?

What do you think would make people in situations such as these be open to hearing about the gospel? Imagine your own home has just been swept away, or your whole village was destroyed in a quake, or your city was being torn apart by a war. What would you want people to do for you if you were in these situations?

It’s important for us to learn about what’s going on all over the world because God loves people all over the world. By continuing to learn, we can more effectively care about and share the gospel with all people. Let’s take a look at three roles Christians are expected to play in taking the gospel to the entire world.