



"And now I am no more in the world,  
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance  
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®  
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

### **IMMINENT TRAGEDY**

A flash flood hit Ellicott City, Maryland, last Saturday. A month's worth of rain—six inches—fell in two hours, washing through the historic town near Baltimore. A quickly-gone-viral video showed a human chain saving a woman whose car was about to be washed away. At one point, the man at the end of the chain was almost swept away in the torrent, but he recovered and finally persuaded the woman to place her faith in the strangers risking their lives for her.

### **EXTRAORDINARY RESPONSE**

The event in Maryland had biblical overtones: a flood of historic proportions, victims caught unawares, and the extraordinary response of people putting themselves at risk to save an unknown and—for a time—unwilling person in crisis. Our text today reminds us of Christ's role in saving us. He placed himself in the ultimate position of risk when we were hopeless sinners. In accepting his saving actions, we help God bring good out of evil.

1. What causes us to place ourselves in danger to save someone else? Is the motivation Christian, or merely human? Explain.
2. What *prevents* us from acting heroically at times?
3. Have you ever been in an extreme situation where someone else risked life or well-being to save you? Describe your feelings.
4. Tell of a time when God worked in your life to turn a crisis into something good.
5. In what way does the rescue in Maryland speak to you about God's love for us in Christ?

—Charles R. Boatman

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