



"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®
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FIRES THAT CONSUME

A week ago the West was on fire . . . figuratively. A week-long extreme heat wave brought 125 degrees to Death Valley, 122 degrees to Palm Springs, 111 degrees to Burbank, and even 96 degrees to Seattle! Las Vegas and Phoenix also suffered from the intense heat. As this past week began, the heat wave had moved eastward, but literal fire began to consume the West. Seven Western states were being ravaged by more than 20 wildfires that were destroying large areas and forcing thousands of people to flee from their homes.

A FIRE THAT DID NOT CONSUME

We don't know if Moses had ever seen a wildfire, but the fire he saw on "the mountain of God" was stranger than anything he had ever seen. A bush was on fire but was not being consumed. As we would expect, Moses' curiosity was aroused. Drawing near to the bush, Moses discovered that God was calling him to the greatest challenge of his life. When Moses tried to refuse the call, God promised to give him extraordinary power to accomplish what he was being called to do.

1. Is God speaking to us through extreme weather conditions? If so, what is the message?
2. Does God still use unusual physical circumstances to call people to serve him? Why or why not?
3. Did Moses react to the burning bush and to God's call the way most people would? Explain.
4. Was Moses' hesitancy due to insecurity or a lack of faith?
5. Have you ever been in an unusual situation through which you perceived God to be speaking to you? Explain.

—Charles R. Boatman

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