In The WORLD

"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®.

A FLOOD . . .

Hurricane Harvey slammed into the Texas coast last weekend as a Category 4 storm, bringing torrential rains that were forecast to total 50 inches in some places. One local official predicted the storm would go down in history as "an 800-year flood" as it moved through Texas and into Louisiana. Federal officials estimated that 30,000 people would need temporary shelter before the storm subsided. The military released water from two reservoirs to prevent even more massive destruction in central Houston, though increasing the risk of flooding in other areas.

. . . FOLLOWED BY A PROMISE

The flood in Noah's time was immeasurably greater than the flood in Texas this past week. It is hard to imagine how Noah and his family coped with their circumstances while the waters rose and then subsided. However, their faithfulness was rewarded with an amazing promise from God: "Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." Then God gave the rainbow as a sign of the promise.

1. Do storms such as Harvey come as retribution for human sin? Explain your answer.
2. Do floods like this one in Texas represent a failure of God to keep his promise? Why or why not?
3. Why does God still send rainbows even though massive destruction by floods still occur?
4. Does it ever seem to you that God isn't keeping his promises to you? Which ones? How do you resolve the matter?
5. How do God's promises help you to cope when life sends you "floods"?
6. How do you show your gratitude to God when he saves you from calamity?

—Charles R. Boatman