

Explore the Bible Extra!
Week of June 1, 2014
When Your World Crumbles
To Whom Can I Turn During Times of Crisis?
Ezekiel 1:1-3; 1:28--2:5; 6:7-10

In the News:

The Sewol ferry sank en route to the resort island of Jeju on April 16, leaving more than 304 people dead or missing. Most of the passengers were high school students on a field trip.

The sinking of the Sewol has resulted in widespread social and political reaction within South Korea, ranging from criticism the captain and most of the crew of the ferry, to criticism of the ferry operator and the regulators who oversaw its operations, to criticism of the South Korean government and media for its response and attempts to downplay government culpability. On May 15, 2014, the captain and 3 crew members were charged with murder, while the other 11 members of the crew were indicted for abandoning the ship. The South Korean Coast Guard was also disbanded in the aftermath.

(To find more information about this story, search the Internet using the phrase "Ferry Disaster aftermath in South Korea.")

Get Started:

Summarize the story above. Ask: *When you first heard the news of this story, what was your reaction? What questions do these types of incidents tend to force people to ask?*

Explain: We know these parents and loved ones experienced deep loss and pain as result of this tragedy. As adults, we empathize because we are also no strangers to crises within our own lives. During these times, we often reflect on some of life's deepest questions such as: Is God real? If so, does God know or even care about what's happening? Does my life have any real purpose?

This lesson will teach us that God is present with His people in crisis to help them grow in trusting Him.

Get to the Point:

Refer back to the story about the South Korean ferry disaster. Invite the group to share insights from today's study they could share with either survivors of this incident or with those who lost loved ones.

Encourage the group to use today's text to garner hope when they face a crisis. Challenge them to determine how they can honor God even in the midst of a crisis.