



February 2018

# Plotting Blessing

## FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Genesis 12:1-2  
Isaiah 49:6  
Matthew 6:14-16

## FOCUS MINISTRY

Disaster Response

### *fellowship!*

“As ‘named storms’ bring destruction, ‘named people and churches’ share Christ’s love”

Winter 2017-2018

[http://issuu.com/fellowship/docs/dec17-feb18\\_fellowship\\_final?e=1254077/55937623](http://issuu.com/fellowship/docs/dec17-feb18_fellowship_final?e=1254077/55937623)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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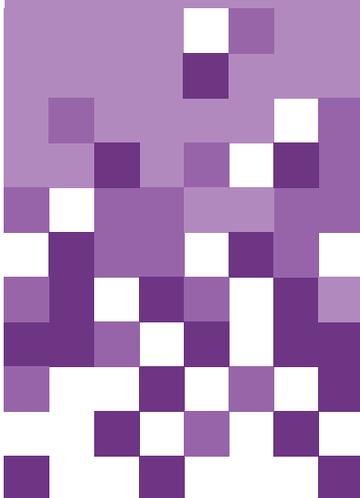
**T**he word disaster comes from the old Italian word *disastro*, literally meaning bad star, coming from the idea of when horrible events were blamed on what was going on in the cosmos. We, as followers of Christ, are charged to bring light to unexpected places to be the light in the darkness, or as Isaiah says, “A light to the nations.”

“Let your light shine”, Jesus says, “so that all may see your good works and bring glory to your Father in heaven.” When natural disasters occur, we have a decision to make on how we are going to help those in need. Are we going to sit back and thank God that it wasn’t us effected? Or are we going to help to the best of our ability, doing to our best to bring light to a situation that dark and bleak?

“God is a plotter. And God is a blesser. God’s been in the blessing business longer than anyone and knows how to go about it better than most. There are fantastic organizations working to rescue and redeem right now. I think even they—or especially they—would tell you what makes the difference is people. People giving, people volunteering, people rescuing, people serving. The divine story unfolding from the Jewish and Christian Scriptures shows this is God’s strategy, for better or worse: plotting blessing through people.”

*From Kevin Collison’s blog on Hurricane Irma*

- **ENGAGE:** Students will think about and discuss what it would be like to experience a natural disaster.
- **EQUIP:** Students will study the verses of God speaking to Abraham and Isaiah, and of Jesus preaching to a crowd to be blessings to those around them. Students will hear the stories of the work being done in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico.
- **EXTEND:** Students will consider and discuss how they can be a blessing to those effected by natural disasters. Students will have a prayer time for the specific areas effected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.
- **MISSION PROJECT:** Students will find ways they can help support CBF in disaster relief work.





# Plotting Blessing

## LEARNING GOAL

Students will learn about the good work that is bringing relief to those affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. Students will also discuss what they can do in the midst of disaster.

## GETTING READY

1. Have an adult ready to receive youth with the lights off, with bottled water to drink.
2. Have bibles ready for scripture study, and be prepared to lead discussion on texts in Genesis, Isaiah, and Matthew.
3. Print out the blog stories from CBF. They can be found here:
  - <https://cbfblog.com/2017/09/29/cbf-disaster-response-establishes-operations-base-in-puerto-rico/>
  - <https://cbfblog.com/2017/09/13/irma-pastor-reflection-all-creatures-of-our-god-and-king/>
  - <https://cbfblog.com/2017/12/26/convergence/>
4. Have three different pieces of paper for three different groups of youth to read the different blog stories. Have these questions to go along with the blog stories. Questions are:
  - What signs of darkness did you see in this story?
  - How would you have reacted given these circumstances?
  - What signs of hope did you see in this story?
  - Who was bringing the light of God to God's people in this story?
5. Look up ways you can support and give to the disaster relief that CBF is doing.

## ENGAGE

1. Welcome students to their normal meeting place with the lights off and give them bottled water.
2. Ask the students:
  - Have you ever been through a natural disaster? What was it like?
  - Who has been a blessing to you in difficult situations?
  - Have you ever been a blessing to someone? What was that like?
3. Imagine your home has been struck by a natural disaster. No electricity, no running water. No wifi. What would that situation be like for you? Where would your hope come from? How could you bless others around you? What if your friends were the ones effected by the disaster? How could you bless them?

## EQUIP

1. Have youth read Genesis 12:1-2; Isaiah 49:6; Matthew 6:14-16
2. Ask:
  - What does it mean to be a blessing to others?
  - What does it mean to be a light to the nations?
  - How can we let our lights shine for those around us? What would that look like?



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## EXTEND

1. Break up into three groups to read blog stories. Hand out the paper with the four questions on it.
2. Have youth share from their stories and their answers to the questions with the whole group.
3. Ask the question: How can I be a light and blessing this week? Have youth respond in a concrete way that they can be a light or blessing to someone they know this week.
4. End your time together by praying for all the areas effected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria: specifically Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. You can find the litany for Puerto Rico here to close this prayer time: <https://cbfblog.com/2017/09/29/a-litany-for-puerto-rico/>

## MISSION PROJECT

1. Volunteer with CBF Disaster Relief. You can find links to the different response pages here: <http://www.cbf.net/dr-volunteer/>
2. Find more blog stories to read, share, and intentionally pray for. Make a designated prayer time for the people you read about. You can find more blog stories here:
  - <https://cbfblog.com/category/irma/>
  - <https://cbfblog.com/category/harvey/>
  - <https://cbfblog.com/2017/04/24/relief-and-relationships/> (This blog refers to Haiti and the disaster that came from Hurricane Matthew)
3. Do a fundraiser for CBF Disaster Relief, or start a collection.
  - Donate here: <https://www.classy.org/checkout/donation?eid=144748>

