



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 13: I Am the Resurrection
Suggested Week of Use: February 26, 2023
Core Passage: John 11:32-46

News Story Summary

On Monday February 6, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit southern Turkey near the border of Syria. The initial quake was followed several hours later by a 7.5 magnitude quake and more than 1,200 aftershocks. In the days that followed, tens of thousands of people were confirmed dead in Turkey and Syria as a result of the quake. Thousands of others were injured, including many children who are now orphans. Overall, more than 26 million people have been affected. Rescuers spent more than a week searching for survivors while struggling with freezing temperatures. Rescue operations continue along with humanitarian aid, as countries from all over the world offer assistance.

For more about this story, search “Turkey Earthquake.”

Focus Attention

To supplement **FOCUS ATTENTION**, share the information about the huge earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria. Point out that with a disaster like this, people often have questions about God. Ask: *What is your emotional response to the earthquake? Where do you see God at work in such a tragedy?* Explain that it is natural to feel a deep, emotional response when so many have lost their lives—including many who probably did not know Jesus. Say: *But it’s important to remember that Jesus understands our pain. His heart hurts for those who are grieving and for the children who are now orphans.* Explain that this session examines Jesus’s response to one man’s death and reminds us that He grieves with us. Say: *It also reminds us that He has the power to bring hope out of the most painful situations.*

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE**, encourage adults to recognize that Jesus understands our pain, and that believers can come to God in prayer knowing that He hears them. Say: *The earthquakes in Turkey and Syria are literally on the other side of the world. While we struggle to wrap our minds around the loss, our hearts mourn the suffering.* Lead the group in a prayer for those affected by the earthquakes. Pray that Jesus would move in a powerful way to provide comfort and hope in the middle of despair—as He did at Lazarus’s tomb.

Note: As a result of this lesson, some adults may want to know what they can do to help the earthquake victims. Send Relief, a collaboration between the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board, has teams in the area providing humanitarian and spiritual aid. Donations can be made at www.sendrelief.org.