



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 4: Delivered From Sin
Suggested Week of Use: December 22, 2024
Core Passage: Luke 1:26-38

News Story Summary

Thanks to a federal SMART grant research program, Riverside Health in Virginia is developing new methods to deliver medicine to remote areas of rural Virginia. Using customized drones, the project, called Elevating Health Care Access (EHCA), showed how a trip that would take hours overland or by boat could be accomplished in just a few minutes.

An October 2024 story detailed EHCA's "proof of concept" flight to Tangier Island, seventeen miles off the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay. The drone, carrying a simulated payload of medicine, completed the journey in sixteen minutes.

Remote populations, including those that become temporarily inaccessible due to mudslides, floods, or other natural disasters, have always faced challenges getting medicine and supplies. One project official said, "There is always a gap between urban and rural. In [this project], we successfully found another way to bridge it."

For more information on this story, search "Tangier Island medicine delivery."

Engage

To replace the Engage activity on page 49, share the news summary above. Highlight the quote at the end of the third paragraph about bridging the gap between urban and rural medical care. Allow adults to suggest other "gaps" that need to be bridged in life.

If it is not mentioned, remind the group of the gap between God and humanity created by sin. Emphasize that this is a gap we have no hope of bridging on our own. Ask: *How did God bridge that gap for us? What cure did He deliver?* Share that this session celebrates the Christmas story. Encourage adults to use this review of a familiar story as an opportunity to renew their gratitude for what God has done for them—something they could not do for themselves.

Challenge

Remind adults about the drone-delivered medicine in the news story. Allow any group members who are comfortable doing so to recount a serious or life-threatening illness they or a family member personally experienced. Encourage them to share what could have happened if the treatment had not been available. Relate this back to the price God was willing to pay to deliver us from sin.

Close by praying that each person would do everything in their power to make sure the cure for lostness—the gospel—arrives to those who need it. If your church is participating in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, remind adults how this offering supports missionaries in remote areas. You may choose to show the video “Lostness,” available at <https://www.imb.org/generosity/resources/lottie-moon-videos/>.