

## News Story Summary

Hurricane Irma hit the Caribbean area hard and left behind a wide path of destruction before heading toward Florida. While many of the Caribbean territories were impacted by Hurricane Irma, the two-island nation of Antigua and Barbuda are in a unique position. They are an independent state with no parent country to help with relief aid right now and rebuilding aid over the longer term. “Barbuda is totally destroyed,” said Roderick Faustin, first secretary for the Embassy of Antigua and Barbuda in Washington, DC. “At least 95% of the properties in Barbuda are either totally destroyed or damaged.” The schools, the hospital, the airport, and the two hotels on the island are all damaged or destroyed. As soon as the storm passed, all of the 1,800 residents on Barbuda were moved to Antigua, where the storm damage was not nearly so severe. Prime Minister Gaston Browne gave a preliminary estimate of the cost to rebuild Barbuda -- \$100 million.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “Hurricane Irma Barbuda”.)

## Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea, begin (as described in the PSG, p. 80) by inviting the group to show by raised hand if they have ever been involved in a renovation or remodeling project of any kind. Call for the group to name some of the things needed when you undertake a renovation or remodeling project. Then share the news story above concerning the rebuilding needed on Barbuda following Hurricane Irma. Point out that it’s hard to imagine the scope of resources, skill, abilities, and money required to rebuild Barbuda.

Continue by asking: *Consider the work of your Bible study group. What skills and abilities are needed for the group to function well? What kind of financial resources are needed for the group to function?*

## Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, remind the group of the news article and the overwhelming task of rebuilding Barbuda. Continue by asking the questions included under Summarize and Challenge by asking *“How can we apply what we’ve learned about the building of the tabernacle as we work in our jobs, homes, and church in this coming week? As a group, how can we encourage each other in the work God calls us to do?”*