

News Story Summary

Earlier this month, the residents of Paradise, California, were allowed to return home for the first time after they were displaced by the out-of-control Camp Fire that killed at least 85 people and destroyed an estimated 14,000 homes.

Because of the damage to the area, the returning residents were given gloves and hazmat suits to protect them from the ash and harmful debris covering the town. Residents are sifting through the remains of their homes and businesses to find items that survived the fire.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “Paradise residents return home after Camp Fire.”)

Focus Attention

To replace the Do idea under Focus Attention, begin by summarizing the story about residents of Paradise, California, who returned home a few weeks ago after a wildfire destroyed much of their town. Direct adults to imagine being one of the people returning home. Ask: *What might you be feeling as you returned home for the first time after the fire?* (anger, sadness, grief, overwhelmed, etc.) *How do you think you would respond if your home were ever destroyed?*

Say: Home. Just saying the word brings up a variety of emotions. Some people think of a physical place in a specific town. Others remember significant events or even friends from long ago. Today’s session will focus on one man’s decision to return home after a long absence. His story will show that no matter where we are or where we travel, God is with His people and He will give them direction for living.

Challenge

To supplement the review idea under Summarize and Challenge, remind the group of the news story about the residents of Paradise. Call attention to the bulleted summary statements under Apply the Text and lead the group to discuss how these truths might impact a person recovering from a loss due to fire. Lead the group to identify the statement they believe would challenge them the most if they were facing the loss of their home. Encourage them to explain their response. Complete the step as written.