

News Story Summary

Powerful Hurricanes Harvey and Irma made the news headlines as they hit the U.S. in late August and early September. In the aftermath of the terrible storms, the news was filled with many inspiring stories of people rising above the difficult circumstances to help others. For example, in Houston, Annie Smith went into labor as the floodwaters were rising. Her husband tried calling for help, but got no answer. Finally, their neighbors along with some firefighters formed a human chain to reach Smith's home and then moved her through the water to safety. "I just kind of held onto them," Smith said, "one person at a time and crawled along their arms until the firemen helped me up the ladder onto the truck."

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term "Hurricane Harvey heroes.")

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea, share the news story above. Allow the group to share ways that adversity impacted the people described in this story.

Continue by asking the questions included under Discuss by asking: *When is adversity a good thing? How does adversity shape people?*

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, remind the group of the news article. Point out that while sometimes adversity brings out the best in people – like the way people formed a human chain to rescue the mother in labor – at other times it brings out the worst in people. Invite the group to silently consider how they handle adversity in their lives. Continue by asking the question included under Summarize and Challenge: What lesson can we take away from this story about the Israelites and their questioning in the wilderness?