

# LESSON 3

# A HEART FOR THE HURTING



## GEOGRAPHY

Scripture: Psalm 23

### Lesson Objectives

- To help the students understand on a greater level the devastating effects of the 2004 tsunami
- To shed light upon the hopeless state in which the Aceh people are living
- To help the students understand the importance of anchoring their hope in Jesus Christ
- To generate additional prayer requests for the Aceh people, continuing the paper prayer chain

### Lesson Structure

40 min. total	30 min.	Tsunami Activity
	5 min.	Biblical Application ( <i>Psalm 23</i> )
	5 min.	Prayer Chain

### Materials Needed

#### Tsunami Activity

- large bin
- table
- wave maker—anything sturdy that will sweep the water onto the “land”
- trash bags or a tarp (if inside)
- newspaper/scrap paper
- dirt/soil
- water
- housing representations, plants, etc. (see p. 49)

#### Prayer Chain

- strips of paper
- stapler/ tape
- writing utensil

### Preparation

#### Tsunami Activity

- Prepare the tsunami bin prior to class time (see steps 1-3, pp. 48-49).

#### Prayer Chain

- Precut prayer chain strips so that they are ready to continue the prayer chain.

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NOTES

## A Heart for the Hurting

On December 26, 2004, a tsunami swept over the province of Aceh, killing over 130,000 *unreached* people. Since the tsunami, the people of Aceh have had to rebuild their homes, their schools, and their workplaces. Fortunately, much of Aceh has returned to how it was prior to the tsunami. Unfortunately, there are many things that will never be the same—the loss of family and friends and the emotional scars that came from the tsunami will forever burden the people of Aceh. They need to experience the hope that only Jesus Christ can provide.

When this tsunami occurred, eyewitnesses reported between ten and twelve waves, with the second and third waves being the highest. The second and third waves were nearly one hundred feet tall and were described as having the appearance of a surf wave (cobra-shaped), being taller than the coconut trees and appearing like a mountain. The destruction caused by the tsunami traveled miles inland with flooding lasting four days. Aceh has made great strides to return to the proud province that it once was.

### Tsunami Activity

For this activity, in a small way you will bring to reality the terrible tsunami that swept over the province of Aceh on December 26, 2004. In doing so, the students will have a very small inkling of the pain and devastation that the people of Aceh faced in the years following the tsunami. Additionally, the students will better understand that in the years following the tsunami, the Aceh people have desperately needed hope; and that hope can only be found in Jesus Christ.

*\*\*We recommend doing this activity outside in a grassy area as it can get very messy.\*\**

**Step 1:** Place newspaper or scrap paper in the bottom of one side of the bin



**Step 2:** Pack dirt over the newspaper



**Step 3:** Put things in the bin that would pertain to your students today, encouraging them to ponder the question, "What if that were me?"

**Hot Wheels cars:** Their cars were destroyed in the tsunami. How would your dad and mom be able to get to work to make money if they did not have a mode of transportation?

**Houses:** Their houses were ruined which left them with nowhere to live. What would happen if your homes were destroyed? Where would you stay?

**Workplaces:** Ask a couple of the students where their parents work. What would happen if your parents' workplaces were destroyed? How would they pay for important things that you and your family need? How would they buy groceries, clothes, toys, and other important things?

**Schools:** What would happen if your school was destroyed? You would not be able to further your education nor would you be able to see your friends every day.



**Step 4:** Gently pour the water in the side of the bin that is empty.



**Step 5:** Make a sweeping motion towards the "land" using the "wave maker."



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## NOTES

**Step 6:** Allow the students to see the devastation that has occurred. Explain to the students that the tsunami hurt a lot of people and even took the lives of many. Some people even lost their entire family during the tsunami.

- Emphasize to the students that after the tsunami, the Aceh people had nothing sure or firm to stand on and were in need of the Word of God. While it has been many years since the tsunami, the Aceh people still need the hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ.



**Option:** *If you do not have the resources available to do the tsunami object lesson activity, there is a more simple option. Simply follow the link below. However, we do recommend doing the suggested activity because it will have a greater impact on the students.*

**Optional activity link:** <http://science-mattersblog.blogspot.com/2011/12/tsunami-tsunami-demonstration.html>

## Biblical Application

The 2004 tsunami was indeed a tragic event for the people of Indonesia. Many of them lost their homes, cars, possessions, food, jobs, and even friends and family. For some, everything they had, everything they held on to, and everything they loved, vanished in a matter of moments. When the waters receded, all they had left was hope—hope that help was on the way, hope of a brighter day, and hope that would carry them beyond their present needs. For Christians, we have hope and help in times of trouble. In Psalm 23 we find a wonderful truth that every Christian can rest upon. Our hope does not come from within ourselves nor does it rest in the things we have but as the Psalmist writes, our hope comes from the LORD. Even in the darkest of times (vs.4) we can rest assured that the LORD our Shepherd will be with us. In Matthew 28, we again find a comforting promise from the LORD when He says, “and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

Our hope is found in the promises of God’s Word. Those without His Word can only rest in the temporal things of this world. Someone must go and tell them about Jesus and the hope He gives. Would you pray that the Aceh people will find hope in the Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ?

## Prayer Chain

Take some time to add to your prayer chain. Ask the students what prayer requests they would like to add after learning more about the Aceh people today.

- **Prayer Request Suggestions:** that the Aceh would be able to experience the hope that only Jesus Christ can provide; for continued recovery from the tsunami.