Leader: Read/say the following introduction to congregation, prior to playing the video)

Today’s Sunday School lesson is a special report from the Disaster Response ministry of the OPC. The OPC Disaster Response Coordinator is David Nakhla, who some of you may have met or have seen on social media….David was formerly a ruling elder in California who was called to serve the OPC as Disaster Response Coordinator, among other things. David has asked every church in the OPC to take one Sunday School hour to view a video they put together and to have a discussion….so we are going to do that today.

When Hurricane Harvey hit Houston a couple of years ago, we had 3 OPC churches in the greater Houston area impacted, and it became a rich and formative ministry opportunity for Disaster Response. They created a video to tell the engaging stories of people helped by the OPC and to help local churches consider how they might be involved in future disaster response opportunities. It’s a fairly lengthy video—about 24 minutes—but we think you’ll see early on that it’s not a boring portrayal of the ministry in Houston. So, let’s try to give it our attention and then we’ll have a discussion in the second half of the class. As you watch, you might think about 2 things in particular:

1) There are many great ways to serve the church, but certain people are led to certain areas of ministry. As you see the work of Disaster Response, is this the type of ministry you are drawn to serve in?”

2) What would it look like for our church to be more directly involved in OPC Disaster Response ministry? What shape would that take?

Let’s watch…..and then we’ll talk.....

-------SHOW THE VIDEO-------

For the leader only: The initial goal of this discussion is simply to get people talking and thinking on this topic. Ultimately, the desire is to see if there are individuals or a team of individuals in your congregation interested enough in Disaster Response ministry to take the discussion further, which will take place over a “Disaster Response Interest Dinner.”
Discussion Questions Set #1:
- What aspects of the video or stories struck you the most?
- Did anything surprise you about the OPC’s Disaster Response ministry?
- Was there anything that interested you particularly?

**Leader Only:** This is mainly to get the conversation going, but you ought to note trends or what seems to resonate with people.

Discussion Questions Set #2:
First say: “There were 4 stories of families blessed by the OPC Disaster Response efforts. They represent 4 different categories of spiritual life:
- An unbeliever drawn into the church.
- A couple who were lapsed church attenders, drawn back into church life.
- A couple who are solid Christians in a Reformed church.
- And an unchurched family.”

(A side note: There were numerous OPC families greatly helped by the Disaster Response efforts, who were not presented in the video.)

- What is significant about these different categories of people?
- What do you think that says about the OPC Disaster Response ministry?

**Leader Only:** The idea here is to get the congregation discussing how Disaster Response blesses both the churched and the unchurched. Many may think of Disaster Response as only for affected OPC families, but hopefully this video shows that it’s a significant outreach opportunity.....with great opportunity for impact.

Discussion Questions Set #3:
- Does the fact that OPC Disaster Response presents strong evangelistic opportunities surprise you?
- Does that attract you more to the work of Disaster Response?

Discussion Question #4:
Let’s talk about our church and the OPC Disaster Response ministry:
- How can we be more supportive and directly involved?

**Leader Only:** Let them discuss, and see what ideas arise before suggesting or presenting the following answers:

*OPC Disaster Response would like to suggest 3 ways we can be supportive and involved:*

1. **We can pray.** We can pray particularly when a new field is opened after a hurricane or other disaster and when we receive updates and prayer requests.
We can pray for OPC Disaster Response efforts in our homes, prayer meetings, and worship services.

2. **We can give.** As we hear of needs, we may consider setting aside a regular diaconal offering for the Disaster Response ministry, taking up a special offering, or doing a fund-raiser on behalf of these efforts.

3. **We can go and serve.** This is specifically the question we want to end with today:
   - Would we have a group of people who are drawn to this area of service and ready to, as David said, ‘Step Up’ and explore the possibility of serving on the frontlines?

**Discussion Question #5:**

**Final Question:** Would anyone be willing to share why they might feel drawn to serve in Disaster Response and whether we might be able to form a team that is ready to serve when there is an opportunity?

**Leader Only:** Take special note of people who are interested in exploring this further.

If you are interested in considering being a part of a Disaster Response team...even if you still have questions or concerns, please add your name to the sign-up sheet. (Have this printed and available.)

We would like to take the next step with those interested in possibly serving in OPC Disaster Response ministry in the future. We want to have a “Disaster Response Interest” Dinner meeting to discuss, pray, and investigate the formation of a team from our church.

The dinner is on __________________ at ________________________________

Or

We will be contacting you about your availability to participate in a “Disaster Response Interest” dinner.

**Leader Only:** You might consider closing in prayer for the Lord's blessing and direction in these matters.