News Story Summary

In February 2021, Winter Storm Uri stretched the Texas power grid to near collapse. In June 2021, it was the heat. And the summer is just beginning.

In mid-June, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) asked state residents to turn up their thermostats and conserve power during peak hours (1-4 p.m.) in the middle of an early-summer heatwave. Several unexpected plant outages prompted the request. Some of the actions suggested for the peak hours were setting thermostats at 78 degrees; turning off lights and pool pumps; not using larger appliances such as washing machines, dryers, and ovens; and unplugging unused appliances.

For more about this story, search "Texans asked to conserve power".

Focus Attention

To replace the suggestions under Focus Attention, direct the group to call out the first things that comes to mind when they hear the word "power." Record response on a board. If not included add electricity to the list. Tell the story about ERCOT asking Texans to conserve electricity in mid-June. Explain that many of these customers lost power during a winter storm in February causing some to question the reliability of the electric grid. Emphasize that Job had been questioning God about the challenges brought upon Job. In today's lesson, we will examine God's response to Job's questions.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Evaluate activity under the Summarize and Challenge, recall the story of the Texas power grid from the opening activity. Emphasize the impact of past performance on how people might respond to the request to conserve electricity. Invite the group to share how anyone's past performance impacts how people view that person or institution going forward. Point out that God's past displays of power should impact how we respond to Him today. Complete the step as written, inviting volunteers to share ways God has demonstrated His faithfulness and wisdom to them in the past.