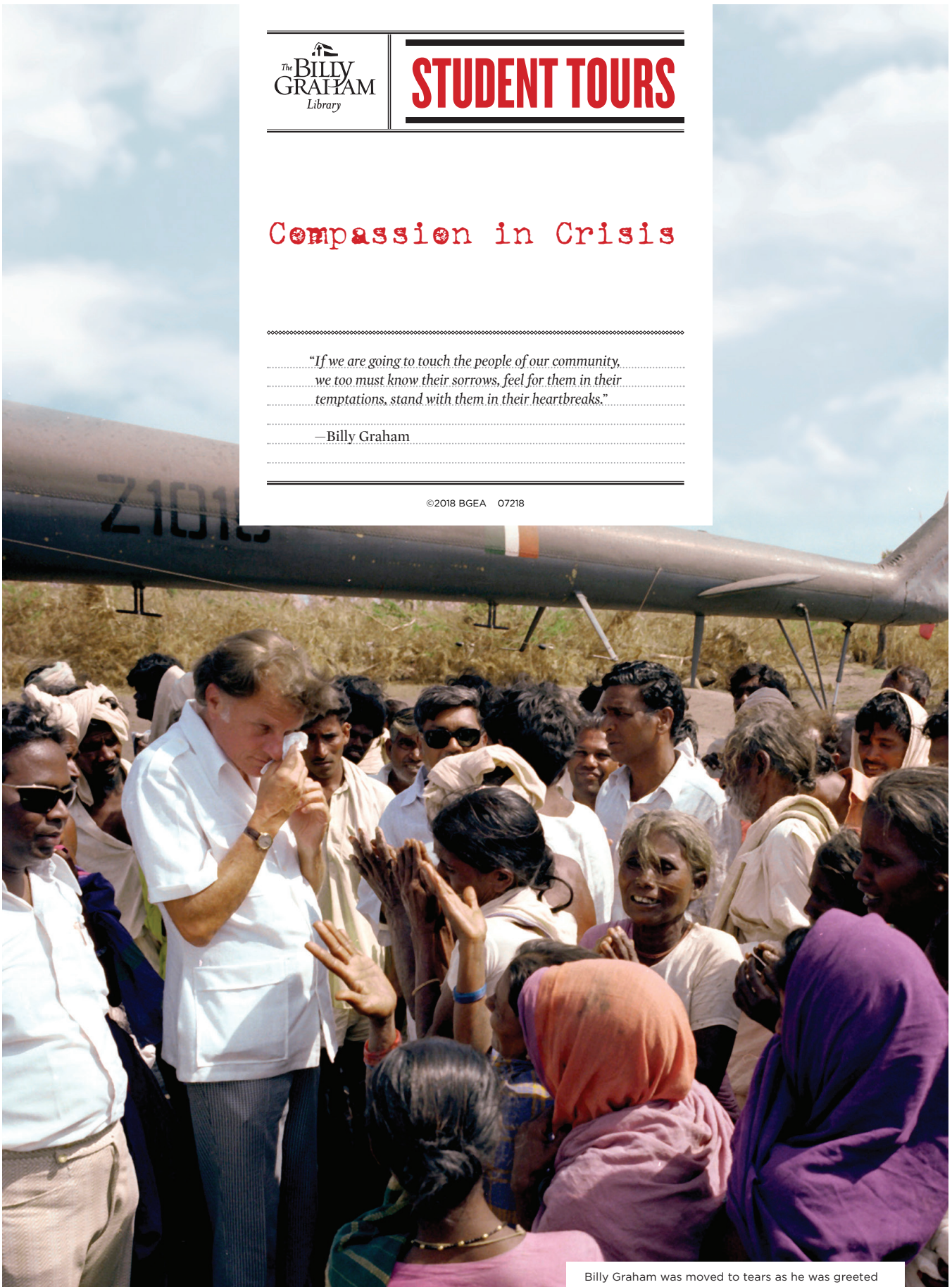


Compassion in Crisis

*"If we are going to touch the people of our community,
we too must know their sorrows, feel for them in their
temptations, stand with them in their heartbreaks."*

—Billy Graham

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Billy Graham was moved to tears as he was greeted by survivors of a deadly cyclone and tidal wave in Andhra Pradesh, India, in 1977. More than 14,000 people were killed in the storm.

GRADE LEVEL

2nd–5th

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Understand a basic timeline of Billy Graham's ministry in moments of crisis, both in the United States and abroad.
- Describe what steps Billy Graham and his team took to care for people in the midst of crises.
- Name two or three disasters—both natural and man-made—and describe Billy Graham's role in their aftermath.

NORTH CAROLINA STANDARD COURSE OF STUDY OBJECTIVES

- **2.H.1** Understand how various sources provide information about the past.
- **3.H.1** Understand how events, individuals, and ideas have influenced the history of local and regional communities.
- **3.H.2** Use historical thinking skills to understand the context of events, people, and places.
- **5.H.1** Analyze the chronology of key events in the United States.
- **5.H.2** Understand the role of prominent figures in shaping the United States.
- **5.G.1** Understand how human activity has and continues to shape the United States.

"I call upon the leaders of all nations to work for peace, even when the risks seem high. I call upon Christians to pray and work for peace in whatever constructive ways are open to them."
—Billy Graham

Pre-Visit Activities

Read and review the attached information with students. Select one of the crises listed in the overview and discuss the following questions, conducting additional research when necessary:

- What do you think the victims of this tragedy/disaster needed or wanted in the aftermath of the event?
- How do you think Billy Graham helped those people?
- What reason do you think he had for helping them?

Visit to the Library

Students will walk through *The Journey of Faith* tour with an assigned guide. Questions and themes to consider include:

- Do you notice any items specifically related to Billy Graham's ministry in times of crisis? If so, what are they?
- Are there any photos that show Billy Graham and his team in disaster areas? If so, in what country was each photo taken? In what year?

Post-Visit Activities

- Ask students to conduct further research into one of the events highlighted in these pages. Have them create a profile sheet about the cause and impact of the crisis—and what Billy Graham and the team did to help those affected by it.
- Ask students to imagine that they're part of a team deploying to one of the highlighted cities. What would they take to the city? Students may create a list, chart, or drawing to explain what they chose and why.

NATIONAL CURRICULUM STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

- **Theme 5:** Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions.
- **Theme 9:** Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of global connections and interdependence.

Compassion in Crisis

"As a Christian, I believe that we are all created in the image of God. ... The life of no human being is cheap in the eyes of God, nor can it be in our own eyes."
—Billy Graham

Pre-Visit Reading: Overview

Billy Graham's work to encourage people during moments of crisis was an important part of his ministry. Beginning in the 1950s, Graham made it a point to comfort people experiencing tragedy, disaster, and war. He once explained that "the Bible has more than a thousand verses related to helping our neighbor in their time of need."

Graham's legacy of compassion continues today through the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. When his son Franklin Graham arrived in New York right after the 9/11 attacks, he discovered there was almost no one comforting victims' families and rescue workers at the disaster site. Soon the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team was formed to bring God's compassion to survivors of major tragedies.

Below, you can review some of the steps Billy Graham and the team took during particular crises.

- **Korean War, 1952:** In the third year of the Korean War, Billy Graham spent Christmas with U.S. troops there. With the cooperation of the military, he preached to soldiers at the battlefield and visited wounded troops in the hospital to talk and pray with them. After the visit, he said, "I wept more in Korea than in all the past years put together."
- **Andhra Pradesh, India, 1977:** In November, a powerful cyclone slammed into the southeastern coast of India, killing more than 14,000 people and destroying over 200,000 homes. At the time, Billy Graham was already in India preaching, so he flew into the devastated area to provide what comfort he could. He arranged as much financing as possible from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association World Emergency Relief Fund, which helped rebuild 285 homes. Against Graham's wishes, the village's residents insisted on naming the rebuilt community Billy Graham Nagar (Village).
- **New Orleans, Louisiana, 2005:** Hurricane Katrina was one of the five deadliest hurricanes ever to hit the United States. In its aftermath, Billy and his son Franklin visited New Orleans to encourage and pray with those hurt by the storm. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan's Purse—both led by Franklin—responded immediately by providing aid in the form of clothing, shelter, food, and water.

NOTES



Billy Graham comforted the nation at a memorial prayer service at the Washington National Cathedral, following the 9/11 terrorist bombings.

- **Washington, D.C., 2001:** On Friday, September 14, three days after the worst terror attacks on U.S. soil, Billy Graham preached a comforting sermon at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. In his sermon, he said:

Yes, our nation has been attacked, buildings destroyed, lives lost. But now we have a choice: whether to implode and disintegrate emotionally and spiritually as a people and a nation; or to choose to become stronger through all of this struggle, to rebuild on a solid foundation. And I believe that we are starting to rebuild on that foundation. That foundation is our trust in God. And in that faith, we have the strength to endure something as difficult and as horrendous as what we have experienced this week. This has been a terrible week with many tears. But it also has been a week of great faith. In that hymn “How Firm a Foundation,” the words say, ‘Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed, / For I am thy God, and will [still] give thee aid; / I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, / Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

My prayer today is that we will feel the loving arms of God wrapped around us and that as we trust in Him we will know in our hearts that He will never forsake us.

Hymn quotation from “How Firm a Foundation” in Rippon’s Selection, 1787. Public domain.