

News Story Summary

Warning signs are prevalent at most beaches: “Danger Strong Currents,” “Caution High Surf,” “No Lifeguard on Duty,” or “Shark Sighted, No Swimming Allowed.” Beach flags are flown as a warning to swimmers and surfers: green for calm conditions, yellow for light surf or currents, and red for dangerous currents.

Unfortunately many beach-goers don’t heed the warnings. Hawaii, one of the most popular states for beach-goers, also has one of the highest drowning rates of any state. On September 14—just one day—lifeguards on the south shore of Oahu, Hawaii performed over 50 water rescues and warned more than 800 people of pending dangers in the water!

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “close call for body surfer.”)

Focus Attention

Ask group members: *What are common warning signs you have seen this week? How do you respond to a warning sign the first time you see it? How do you typically respond to a warning sign that you’ve seen numerous times? Why is your response different?*

Briefly share the information about water rescues and warnings issued on September 14 in Oahu and other details you learned from news stories discovered.

Ask: *Why do we ignore warning signs—not just at the beach but in other areas of life? (We’re complacent, distracted, think we’re invincible.)*

Challenge group members to consider the warning signs that are provided for us in God’s Word. Ask: *Why do we ignore these warnings?*

Lead in prayer for today’s study of Hebrews 3:7-15.

Challenge

Refer to the warnings issued by the lifeguards in Hawaii. Ask: *What regrets would you expect from beach-goers and their families regarding those who failed to heed the signs, flags, and verbal warnings given on the beach? Why?*

Encourage group members to pay attention to the warnings included in the Book of Hebrews. Remind them that these warnings are for our benefit—not to make our lives more difficult but to protect us from harm.

Close in prayer that group members will be alert to the warnings in Scripture and responsive to the direction of God.