

### News Story Summary

Though tornados usually occur in the spring, there have been multiple tornado outbreaks across the southern United States during this winter season. One outbreak occurred the first week of February. Tornados touched down in Alabama and Mississippi, damaging or destroying homes, a church, and a prison. Student housing was damaged at East Mississippi Community College.

Bobby Wilkins of Aliceville, Alabama was sitting on a couch with his wife and granddaughter when he heard a TV meteorologist report a tornado warning. He and his family went into a hallway, and seconds later the storm directly hit their home. When the winds died down, they stood up and looked around. The couch they had been sitting on was buried under a brick wall. The TV they were watching was in the yard. The roof was gone. The house they had lived in for 29 years was a total loss. "Looking at the house yesterday and looking at it today, it's hard to come up with the words to describe how it feels," said Wilkins. "It's hard to evaluate it all right now. All I can do is thank God we're alive."

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase, "Bobby Wilkins tornado.")

### Focus Attention

Share the news story with the group. If any have experienced a tornado, invite them to share. Then ask: *What signs pointed to the coming of a storm? How did an awareness of the signs help forecasters and the Wilkins family?*

Explain that, in today's lesson, the scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus to show them a "sign" to prove He was who He claimed to be. We know that Jesus had performed many miracles. They had seen the results of God's work through Him many times already. Challenge the group to look for the sign Jesus promised.

### Challenge

Remind the group of the Wilkins receiving a weather alert and heeding it. Consider how the "signs" Jesus gave us (miracles and, ultimately, His death, burial and resurrection) give you confidence in your faith in Jesus. Ask: *How can you use what we studied today to help someone struggling to believe the gospel?*