



"And now I am no more in the world,
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®
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THE UNCERTAINTIES OF LIFE

The recent disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 reminds us of the uncertainties of life and the suddenness of death. A very reliable aircraft flying in good weather over open ocean disappears with no signals of distress from the crew. As of Wednesday morning, no confirmed debris had been found. Is the disappearance due to terrorism? pilot error? mechanical failure? severe turbulence? Regardless of how the disaster happened, the ocean appears to be the tomb for the 239 people who were on board the flight.

THE CERTAINTY OF RESURRECTION

As Peter said on the Day of Pentecost, David is still in his tomb. But Jesus, who was not exempted from experiencing death, is alive forever. God's Son is our Redeemer, and the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead will raise us too. The promise of eternal, resurrected life with God is available to all through the risen Christ—but through him only.

1. How do you answer someone who asks, "How could a loving God allow those 239 people to suffer such a tragic fate?"
2. How can we use tragedies to advance the gospel, even when we don't hear the question above?
3. Thinking of your closest brush with death, how do you make that experience part of your Christian witness?
4. How does the biblical promise of resurrection give hope that the false concept of reincarnation in other religions does not?
5. Are there certain times of the year or certain seasons of life when people are more open to discussing death and resurrection? Explain.

—Charles R. Boatman

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