



"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®  
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

### **OVERCOMING SUFFERING**

Just a year ago, the Boston Marathon was cut short by explosions of terrorist bombs near the finish line. This week, Meb Keflezighi won the race while having the names of those who died as a result of the bombing written on his racing bib. He became the first American male to win the race in 31 years. Keflezighi is an Ethiopian-born, naturalized American citizen who survived a childhood while living in war-torn Eritrea. This year's race in Boston and Keflezighi's win are symbols of the human spirit's ability to overcome suffering and to experience earthly glory—fleeting though it may be—in so doing.

### **EXPERIENCING GLORY**

Jesus is the epitome of the rise from suffering to glory. Isaiah's description of the Messiah's suffering is a graphic, prophetic look at what Jesus ended up enduring for our sake; the Gospel of Luke records Jesus' own explanation of what Isaiah meant. The Messiah's suffering was indeed intense, but it was not be the end of the story. He overcame the suffering to experience the glory of resurrection.

1. In what other ways, if any, is this year's Boston Marathon an illustration of Jesus' experience of overcoming suffering and obtaining glory?
2. What suffering have you experienced that later gave way to the victorious joy of overcoming it?
3. What was God's role in your answer to question 2?
4. How does Jesus' willingness to endure suffering provide you with perspective about life, death, and the glory that lies ahead for the Christian?
5. How can you use the gospel message to help give confidence to someone who is discouraged by the difficulties he or she currently faces?

—*Charles R. Boatman*

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