



"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®.

TEMPTED TO HATE

Several weeks ago, three Jewish teenagers were kidnapped and killed by Palestinians. These acts of hatred led in turn to a Palestinian youth being murdered in revenge, a crime for which three Israelis were arrested. The violence intensified when the terrorist organization Hamas fired a thousand rockets into Israel. Israel tried to put a stop to this with missiles and a commando raid into Gaza. By mid-week (the time of this writing), the death toll in Gaza stood at 185.

CHALLENGED TO OVERCOME

The sin of hating others on the basis of religion, race, ethnicity, etc., infects many today. That may not be our own besetting sin, but we have others! Ours may involve temptations to engage in sexual immorality and/or idolatry as was rampant in the city of Corinth of Paul's day. Paul challenged his readers on more than one occasion to address certain temptations by fleeing from them (1 Corinthians 6:18; 10:14; 1 Timothy 6:9-11; 2 Timothy 2:22). Not to do so puts one in danger of believing that he or she can serve both Christ and the forces of evil.

1. How can we take Christ to the Middle East? What will be your part in this?
2. What temptations do people in your community struggle most with? Why?
3. Do Christians have fewer, the same, or more temptations than non-Christians? Explain.
4. What helps you to resist the temptations you are most susceptible to?
5. Considering the three possible reactions of *fight*, *flight*, and *freeze*, how do we know which is applicable in various situations of temptation to sin?
6. How can you help others overcome their temptations?

—Charles R. Boatman

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