



"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®.

### **VERY LITTLE THAT'S "WONDERFUL"?**

Are there any "wonderful" things to be thankful for in the news of the world this week? The Ebola virus continues to spread. Islamic State terrorist forces are proving resistant to the international coalition's efforts to defeat them. Iraq still convulses under sectarian violence. Many mid-term election campaigns in the U.S. are being waged with misleading attack ads that make it impossible for the average voter to distinguish truth from falsehood.

### **BUT GOD IS STILL AT WORK!**

However, God is still doing things in "ways that are too wonderful" for us. Christians are responding with grace in many places where religious persecution predominates. Roman Catholic bishops are struggling to reform their church so the Bible plays a more significant role than tradition. Churches continue to leave denominations that have strayed from the Bible. And, more subtly, God is prompting individual Christians to be more Christlike in difficult situations.

1. Are there "positive" items mentioned above about which you would say that God is *not* at work? Why?
2. When misfortune strikes, what is God's role in the matter?
3. What is an example of the positive role your faith played in responding to a negative situation, even though you didn't understand what was happening?
4. What is an example from your personal life that reveals God to be at work right now? Why do you conclude that?
5. How do we avoid being like Job's "friends" in speaking wrongly about God during times of distress?

—Charles R. Boatman

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