



“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®.

### **FOREIGNERS AMONG US TODAY**

Only three weeks after the midterm elections, hopes that President Obama and the U.S. Congress can and/or will work together are becoming dimmer. The president is promising to take executive action to halt the deportation of millions of immigrants who lack the documentation to prove that they are in the country legally. Some congressional leaders are strongly opposed to the plan and are threatening a showdown on the matter. Thus the long-simmering question of who should be allowed to remain within the borders of the United States threatens to erupt anew.

### **FOREIGNERS IN THE ISRAEL OF EZEKIEL’S VISION**

The prophet Ezekiel’s vision from God indicated that the Jews were to respect the foreigners living among them as if they were Israelites who were born there. The foreigners were even to be allotted an inheritance in the land! That command was probably as unsettling to many of the ancient Israelites as is talk of “immigration reform” to many Americans today.

1. What does the lesson text have to say, if anything, regarding the current debate over immigration reform? Why?
2. What similarities and differences do you see between the current tension on immigration reform and the issue of providing foreigners an inheritance among the ancient Israelites?
3. If you knew the whereabouts of someone who was in the country without proper documentation, what would you do? Why?
4. How does Romans 13:1-5 inform your response to question 3, if at all?
5. Should a church’s benevolence and evangelism procedures be different toward those who are in the country legally and illegally? Why, or why not?

—Charles R. Boatman

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