



“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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FEAR

Fear is common to the human experience. Some people fear that priceless antiquities in Syria and Iraq will continue to be destroyed by ISIS fighters. In Israel, some fear outside pressure to create a Palestinian state. In Washington, many senators fear the president will take too soft a line in nuclear talks with Iran, while other senators fear that their colleagues will compromise those talks. Such issues seem abstract and irrelevant to those who fear that their money will not stretch to the end of the month. It seems that there is always something to fear.

PEACE

Jesus’ disciples were gathered in fear behind locked doors on the evening of the first resurrection Sunday. They had no idea what the Jewish leaders might be planning next. But when Jesus appeared to them, he brought a message of peace. The disciples were being taught to look to the resurrected and eternal Son of God as they shifted their gaze away from the temporary things of the world that cause fear.

1. Even though we trust God, isn’t fear of what evil people may do a realistic attitude? Why, or why not?
2. What steps can we take to find spiritual peace when it seems there is ample reason to be afraid?
3. What does Peter’s retreat back into fear in Galatians 2:11-13 have to say about our own faltering steps in casting off fear?
4. When was an occasion that your trust in God helped you to conquer a fear?
5. How does fear of God (1 Peter 2:17; etc.) differ from fear of evil people?

—Charles R. Boatman

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