



"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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RESCUE BY ARMED FORCE

In the darkness of October 22, U.S. and Kurdish troops invaded an ISIS prison in Iraq. These forces freed 70 Kurdish prisoners who would have been executed the following day. One American commando and 20 ISIS militants were killed in the raid. Many of us saw on TV the video clip of the raid taken by the helmet-cam of a Kurdish soldier. The U.S. government later released a video taken from an American plane showing the prison being destroyed from the air the day after the raid.

RESCUE BY DIVINE ACTION

Centuries earlier, the church was praying for the apostle Peter. He was being held in a Jerusalem prison. On the eve of his scheduled trial, an angel answered those prayers. He appeared to Peter in the night and led him out of the prison to safety. King Herod most likely would have executed him just as he had the apostle James. The prison was not destroyed and no lives were lost, but God's mission was accomplished.

1. With what famous escapes of fact or fiction are you familiar? What are some common elements in those accounts? Compare and contrast those stories with the raid in Iraq and the way Peter was rescued.
2. How important was the role of praying Christians in Peter's rescue? How important is prayer in fighting evil forces today? Explain.
3. Have you ever prayed for a seemingly impossible outcome and seen a positive result? Tell about it.
4. How should we balance the apparently contrary ideas of relying on God to act, and taking action ourselves when confronted by dire circumstances?

—Charles R. Boatman

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