



"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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### **A RELIGION THAT BRINGS DEATH?**

November 13 was the deadliest day in Paris since World War II. At least 129 people were killed, and 352 were injured in multiple attacks by ISIS—bombings, shootings, and assassination of hostages. The fabled “City of Light” became a very dark place. These events have raised again the question: Do such acts show the true face of Islam? On Saturday, one person who believes that phoned a death threat to a mosque in St. Petersburg, Florida. Or is Islam a religion of peace, as an Imam in San Diego said in condemning the attacks in Paris?

### **... OR A LIFE-GIVING FAITH?**

As Paul preached in Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens, his message stood in contrast to the messages of some religious practitioners in those regions. Some Jews would incite violence against Paul in Thessalonica and Berea. The Athenians did not react with force, but the city offered religions of lifeless idols. Paul's message differed. He offered the living Christ whose resurrection enabled all who believe in him to have life everlasting.

1. Some modern atheists argue that religion inevitably leads to violence and death. Cite evidence both for and against that argument.
2. What can we learn from the apostle Paul about how to relate to those who oppose—perhaps even violently—the gospel of Jesus?
3. What are some ways for us to show the world that Jesus is the “Prince of Peace”? Does that message mean that we can only react to evil with passivity? Why or why not?

—Charles R. Boatman

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