



"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®.

### **THE POWER TO COERCE**

Apple vs. the FBI vs. the terrorist. A federal court has sided with the FBI, ordering Apple to create software that would break the encryption of the iPhone used by the gunman who killed fourteen people in San Bernardino last December. The FBI wants to know if the assassin used the phone to communicate with other terrorists. Apple says the court is trying to interfere with some basic constitutional rights. Fundamentally, it may be seen as an issue of whether the state has ultimate power when it comes to individual liberty vs. public safety.

### **THE POWER TO HEAL**

The healing of the demon-possessed child was also a matter of power—the power of faith. The demon's power coerced the boy to behave abnormally. The boy's father had faith in Jesus and asked Jesus' disciples to heal his son, but they could not coerce the demon to leave. After healing the boy, Jesus told them this kind of healing can only be accomplished by the power of faith-filled prayer.

1. Is Apple right or wrong in refusing to obey the government? Does a particular biblical principle bring you to this conclusion? Explain.
2. What other issues do you see in which governmental power might conflict with the rights of individuals or businesses? How would you resolve them?
3. Why do you think the disciples could not heal the child even though they believed in Jesus' power?
4. Does the father's statement, "I believe, help my unbelief," have an application to your life? Explain. Has your prayer ever resolved a difficult situation? How?

—Charles R. Boatman

<http://www.standardlesson.com/downloads>

Copyright © 2016 by Standard Publishing, Part of the David C. Cook Family. All rights reserved.  
Each download is for the use of one church only.