



"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®.

POWERLESS TO STOP IT

The news in recent weeks seems to have been unrelentingly bad. Killings by police, multiple assassinations of police, 84 killed and more than 300 injured as a truck drove through a mile of pedestrians in France. We wonder, when will the insanity stop? The truth is, we are powerless to stop it. New laws are proposed (and sometimes passed), security measures are tightened, politicians pontificate, but the violence continues.

AND YET, WE HAVE HOPE

Suffering is the way of this world. Nevertheless, Paul tells us that suffering leads us to persevere in our faith, which builds character in us. Ultimately, this chain of events brings us hope. Yes, hope, because the troubles of this world lead us to place our trust in the promises of Christ. We may never find reconciliation in this world, but Christ gives us peace by reconciling us to God.

1. Is it really possible to have peace in our hearts when the world all around us seems to be going crazy? Why or why not?
2. How do you define this peace? How is it different than the peace the world is seeking?
3. How do you personally find comfort when life seems to be coming apart?
4. What can Christians do individually and collectively to help others see that hope is available in the midst of suffering?
5. What does God reconciling us to himself while we were his enemies say about how we should act toward *our* enemies? What specific steps should we take?

—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.