



"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 NEED FOR REPENTANCE

Recently, the moral failings of humanity have topped the list of bad news. The #MeToo movement has brought to light the problem of sexual assault/harassment, but now some women are saying it infantilizes women and causes an anti-feminist overreaction. On another front, political chatter is divided over whether President Trump is a racist based on a crude term he allegedly used to describe poor countries in a closed meeting last week. Furthermore, a federal budget may not get passed because of congressional in-fighting over immigration issues. And so it goes!

A PENTINENT PLEA

Daniel was very much aware of the sins of his people. However, instead of stirring them to argue about who among them was worse, he prayed on their behalf. He confessed their corporate sinfulness and the shame they had brought on themselves and on God's name. His heartfelt plea was that God would forgive his people for his own sake, if not for theirs.

1. Do you think the sins of America bring shame on God's name as the sins of Israel did? Why or why not?
2. What might happen if Christians prayed as Daniel did? To what extent should Christians personally repent for society's sins? How would you phrase such a prayer?
3. In Daniel's prayer, how did thankfulness tie in with shame and repentance?

—Charles R. Boatman

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