



"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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TURNING LIFE INTO DEATH

Deadly school shootings have headlined the news in recent years. In February, a gunman killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The focus of this crime seems to have shifted, however, from the act itself to reaction to it. A week ago, crowds of people turned out at gun control demonstrations across the nation. Some proponents of the rallies called them spontaneous student-led events. Skeptics saw them as adult manipulations of youth whose opinions tend toward simplistic answers.

TURNING DEATH INTO LIFE

With human beings, life always turns into death, whether by natural causes, calamities, or by human violence. At the crucifixion, an anger-fueled crowd was demonstrating for death. In the resurrection, God was the only demonstrator, and he turned it all around. The resurrection of Christ is God's statement that death can turn to life. New life is given to all who accept God's redemptive action.

1. Is demonstrating moved by grief and anger a helpful way to spur the government to action on this or other social problems? Name some demonstrations and marches of the past few years. What has resulted because of them?
2. The disillusioned disciples on the road to Emmaus had hoped Jesus would redeem Israel. Why did they give up on that hope? How do political battles today reveal that we are often blind to how God is addressing problems in our world? Explain.
3. Is saying that sin is the root of the problems in our society too simplistic? Why do you think responses such as stricter legislation, better education, or addressing financial disparity inevitably fall short of eradicating society's deepest issues?

—Charles R. Boatman

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