



“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®.

### **FROM EUPHORIA TO DESPAIR . . .**

The Dow Jones Industrial Average peaked at 26,616 on January 28, but within little more than a week, it fell by more than 10%. From that January high, it’s been a bumpy ride for investors with multiple corrections up and down in the two months since. The last two weeks have seen continuing large fluctuations, with investors showing anxiety over the troubles of Facebook, Tesla and other tech companies. Fears of a trade war with China have also created uncertainty about the future. With the stock market, there are no guarantees.

### **. . . AND BACK AGAIN**

Jesus’ ministry peaked (at least by human standards) with his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. In the next few days, his “stock” crashed with his arrest, trial and crucifixion. Then came another high: the resurrection. But after that roller-coaster ride came another emotional low. Uncertain about their future, some of the disciples went back to their comfort zones—their careers as fishermen. But then Jesus appeared to them again. From that point on, they began to see the future more clearly.

1. What parallels do you see between the turmoil in the stock market and everyday life? What are some highs and lows you experience?
2. Why do you think the disciples vacillated between hope and despair despite the miracle of the resurrection?
3. The disciples failed to recognize Jesus standing on the shore. Tell about a time of personal despair during which it was difficult for you to recognize Jesus’ presence in your life.
4. How does recalling how Jesus worked in your life in the past give you comfort and courage during difficult times?
5. What are some ways you can encourage a fellow Christian who is experiencing doubt or despair?

—Charles R. Boatman

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