

3. TWW team member Henry Brinton is friends with a Muslim imam who recently said, "If ISIS is Islam, then I am not a Muslim." How do you understand ISIS to be a perversion of true Islam? What can peace-loving Muslims do about ISIS? What can you do to protest perversions of true Christianity?

4. The author of 1 John asserts that "there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear" (4:18). Where do you see evidence in the world that "perfect love casts out fear"? What can you do to be more loving in situations where you are afraid?

5. Brother Curtis of the Society of St. John the Evangelist suggests that we pray for the conversion of our anxiety. Because, he says, when anxiety is converted, you know what it becomes? It becomes hope. What exactly would it mean for God to "convert our anxiety"? How could hope be a force for good in our world today?

6. A command that appears 67 times throughout the Bible is "Do not be afraid" (for example, Genesis 15:1, Luke 1:30). Why do you think God and his messengers give this command? What would it mean for us to respond to such an order today? How would refusing to be afraid change our lives?

Responding to the News

As you follow news about terrorist threats and listen to presidential candidates offer their proposals, reflect on the ways in which people of faith have responded to uncertainty and danger in the past. Realize that God's people have faced adversity in every era. Trust that God will walk beside you in the darkest valley, and put your time and energy into visible acts of love in your community.

Closing Prayer

God, we live in an uncertain time, with dangers all around us. Convert our anxiety into hope, transform our fear into faith, and help us to be your people in the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.