

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Peer Pressure,” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for March 8, 2015. The lesson is found on page 5 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Over the last week or so, *this* picture has sparked millions of words. Some of those words would include: *mind-blowing, remarkable, frustrating, insane, inconceivable, disturbing, perplexing, and shocking*. If you haven’t guessed what picture we mean, try these words on for size: *blue and black or gold and white*? Ah, yes—THE dress! For several days last week, social media was blowing up over something that normally would be so simple. But this photograph had people around the globe seeing red . . . um, we mean blue . . . or maybe gold?

In early February Caitlin McNeill attended a wedding on the remote Scottish island of Colonsay. Like every happy guest a wedding, Caitlyn snapped a few shots as the festivities took place. A few weeks later, she looked at one photo featuring the mother of the bride. And in that single photo, her black and blue dress transformed into gold and white. One of her friends saw gold and white at first, and then later saw black and blue. Caitlin posted the photo to her Tumblr account, and the rest is history. Within hours, #TheDress was trending on lists around the world.

According to Taylor Swift the dress was “obviously” blue and black.

“What’s the matter with you guys?” argued Julianne Moore. “It’s white and gold.”

Kim Kardashian and Kanye West chimed in (of course), reporting that she saw white and gold, but he saw blue and black.

Turns out, there’s a logical scientific explanation. Basically the lighting in the photograph provides the brain a rare chance to “choose” which colors to see. But that answer wouldn’t do for a lot of people. Heated arguments, name-calling, and character-bashing ensued between total strangers. All over the color of a dress! At the end of the day, who cares? More likely, the intense emotions came about because it is hard for people to imagine that others might see things differently than they do.

Perhaps the best quote about the dress came from late-night talk show host, Jimmy Kimmel. “What’s important is that we learn to recognize that our way of seeing is not the only way of seeing. And just maybe, that realization can help us to understand and love each other.”

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above news story to read. After all teens have had the opportunity to read the article, discuss it in this way:

Did you look at the dress? What colors did you see?

Do you know anyone else who saw it differently? How did that make you feel?

Tell about a situation when you and a friend saw things differently. How did you handle it?

Sometimes there are no right or wrong answers. But sometimes there definitely are! We’ve all faced pressure from our friends or acquaintances to change our ideas or actions to match theirs. It’s called peer pressure, and it’s been around since the beginning of time. Let’s see how Aaron, the brother of Moses, reacted when he faced such pressure.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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