

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Meeting God Through Fasting,” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for April 19, 2015. The lesson is found on page 43 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Have you ever been on top of the world, only to have it come crashing down around you? Have you ever stopped dead in your tracks and thought, *What just happened here?* Have you ever done something that you’d give ANYTHING to take back? Of course you have. We all have. And so has Tanguy Pepiot, a college track star from the University of Oregon. And we mean *big* time.

Last weekend, Pepiot and hundreds of other runners from around the country gathered together to represent their schools in the Pepsi Team Invitational track meet. Nearing the end of the steeplechase (an event in which runners conquer obstacles such as water, hurdles, and such), Pepiot seemed to have the race locked up.

At least that’s what he thought.

As he neared the finish line, Pepiot started celebrating just a bit too early—waving to the crowd, pumping his arms to encourage their cheers, basking in his newfound glory. Behind him, Meron Simon from the University of Washington turned on the gas. While Pepiot was enjoying his soon-to-be victory, Simon overtook him just inches from the finish line and won the race by one-tenth of a second.

The look on Pepiot’s face went from sheer triumph to complete disbelief to total devastation as he watched Simon cross the line in front of him. He soon dropped to the ground and laid flat on his back as the reality of his loss hit him. And it hit him *hard*. Simon walked over, pulled Pepiot to his feet, and they exited the track—both with a memory they will never forget.

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:

Have you ever heard the phrase “Less is more”? How could it apply to Pepiot’s situation?

On the other hand, what words would you use to describe Simon’s determination?

Have you ever been in a situation when something really small made a huge difference?

Sometimes we miss out on what we want because of our own mistakes. Sometimes we work extra hard to get what we want and things turn out better than we could have dreamed. But the Bible teaches that what *God* wants is better than what we want. And in order to get the things we really *need*, we must surrender to God’s will. Today we’ll see what the Bible says about the practice of fasting and how it helps us experience God and in real and meaningful ways.

To show the video of this incredible race, visit youtube.com and search “Oregon runner celebrates too early.”



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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