

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Trusting God When I Feel Like a Failure,” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for May 17, 2015. The lesson is found on page 69 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

# the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Dorotea Garcia has been searching for her daughter for 8 years. In June 2007, a United States court awarded custody of the 5-year-old girl to her mother. But the girl’s father took the child and ran off to Mexico without permission. Ms. Garcia never heard from them again—at least not until recently.

In April of this year, Ms. Garcia believed she had found her daughter, Alondra Diaz Garcia. She alerted the police, who showed up at school and dragged the girl away, kicking and screaming. After being seized by the police, she was handed over to Mexican authorities. A judge ruled that she be taken to Houston, Texas, where Ms. Garcia lives. Four days later, they learned that they’d taken the wrong person. Alondra Luna Nunez shared the same first name as the missing girl. She was about the same age. She had a similar scar. She did not have the same DNA.

The girl and her family had insisted all along that there had been a mistake—that she wasn’t the Alondra they were looking for. “The other girl had a scar, but on the eyebrow, and I have one on my nose,” Miss Nunez explained. “I mean, all this was stirred up over that.” The judge who sent Alondra from Mexico to Houston refused to carry out a DNA test prior to her transport. He said it wasn’t his place. Eight days after she was forcibly taken from her school and her family, Alondra Luna Nunez was finally returned to Mexico.

On Monday, May 11, a 13-year-old girl showed up on the steps of a Mexican courthouse, claiming to be Alondra Diaz Garcia, the *real* missing person. She told reporters that she has been “happy with my Dad, but at the same time I felt there was something missing. I have missed my mother’s affection because I have not seen her for so long.”

Her relatives say that Mr. Garcia decided to hand her over after he saw all the confusion over the “other” Alondra in the media. This time, Mexican officials are expected to conduct DNA testing before moving forward with the case.

*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:*

**It seems that just about everyone mentioned in this story dropped the ball in some way. What are some of the failures that took place?**

**How could each of those failures have been avoided?**

**What are some failures that have taken place in your life?**

**We have all faced times during which our plans have failed and our hopes were crushed. It happens to everybody—even people living way back in Bible times. But we can learn from their mistakes and our own! Today we’ll discover some biblical principles to help us overcome failure.**



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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