

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Honor God’s Name,” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for June 21, 2015. The lesson is found on page 17 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

“It is with complete allegiance to the cause of racial and social justice and the NAACP that I step aside from the presidency and pass the baton to my vice president,” said Rachel Dolezal in a recent post to the Spokane Washington’s NAACP Facebook page. Dolezal made the decision to resign from her position after it was revealed that she has been misrepresenting her race.

In her application for the job with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Dolezal identified herself as white, African-American, and Native American. However, Dolezal’s biological parents (both white) have come forward to reveal their daughter’s racial identity. The couple adopted four African-American children when Rachel was younger, and they say that she has always shown an interest in diversity and black culture.

“I identify as black,” Dolezal explained on the *Today* show and adds she has done so since the age of 5. “I was drawing self-portraits with the brown crayon instead of the peach crayon.” In a separate interview with MSNBC she was asked point blank: “Are you black?” Dolezal replied simply, “Yes.” As the wife of a black man and the mother of two black sons, Dolezal says she understands “what it means to experience and live black.” Yet in 2002, she sued Howard University for denying her teaching posts and a scholarship—because she was white. The lawsuit was dismissed in 2004.

Dolezal doesn’t feel that her race identification should be an issue. But that *isn’t* the issue for many. “Integrity Matters” was the slogan that characterized a local rally of civil rights leaders just prior to Dolezal’s resignation. Said one organizer of the rally, Charity Bagatsing, “I felt duped.”

“The NAACP is not concerned with the racial identity of our leadership but the institutional integrity of our advocacy,” commented President Cornell William Brooks.

In her resignation letter, Dolezal concluded by saying, “Please know I will never stop fighting for human rights and will do everything in my power to help and assist, whether it means stepping up or stepping down because this is not about me. It’s about justice.”

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:

Why do people no longer trust Rachel Dolezal’s leadership?

Do you think she was being intentionally deceitful or being true to herself?

Why are our identities so important to us?

Who we are is important to us. Our names are important to us. We like our names to be used correctly and certainly do not want our names to be used to demean us. It’s not hard to understand that God feels the same way about His name. Let’s see what the Bible teaches about misusing the name of God.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

©2015 Encounter Curriculum. Written by Karen Cain. Copies may be made for classroom use only. Not for resale.

<http://www.encounterface2face.com/category/the-scene/>