

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Honor Your Parents,” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for July 5, 2015. The lesson is found on page 29 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Actor Ben Affleck was the subject of an episode of PBS’s TV series *Finding Your Roots*. It aired last fall.

The TV series helps celebrities and other famous public figures trace their family trees. And the staff says they have always openly revealed whatever they discovered in their research. But that was the problem. Affleck had learned that producers had found that his great-great-great-grandfather was the owner of slaves. He was “embarrassed” to be related to a slave owner and wanted the TV producers and host to cut that part of the information from the show. Which they did.

But a recent investigation by PBS’s review committee found that the producers/host had violated the integrity of the program—that “improper influence” had been exerted to control the show’s content.

The show’s host, Henry Louis Gates Jr., offered an apology: “I sincerely regret not discussing my editing rationale with our partners at PBS and WNET and I apologize for putting PBS and its member stations in the position of having to defend the integrity of their programming.” And Gates admitted, “Once we open the door to censorship, we lose control of the brand.”

Ben Affleck spoke of the issue on Facebook, admitting that he’d asked Gates to omit this information because, he said, “I didn’t want any television show about my family to include a guy who owned slaves.” Affleck seemed to think it was reasonable to pick and choose what to reveal about his ancestors, stating that the show, after all, isn’t “a news program.”

According to the *New York Times* report of June 25, the show’s research also unearthed other “interesting ancestors” in Affleck’s family tree, “including a relative from the Revolutionary War and an occult enthusiast.”

As of now, the network said, “PBS will not run the show’s third season until staffing changes are made, including hiring a fact checker.”

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:

Do you relate to Ben Affleck’s embarrassment about his ancestor? What would you have done in the same situation?

Is it any worse to have a slave owner in the family than it is to have someone who went to war or who was interested in the occult? Defend your reasons.

No human being is flawless, including ourselves, our ancestors, and our parents. How do we show respect or honor to family members, even when we don’t approve of everything they do?

Think of what you appreciate about your parents. In today’s lesson we’ll learn what the Bible says about honoring our parents—and what the benefits are.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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