

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Knowing What Really Matters,” the High School Sunday school lesson for July 19, 2015. The lesson is found on page 41 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Bits and pieces from the news . . .

BRITISH ACTOR James Nesbitt was recently quoted as saying, “I so regret the hurt I caused with my affairs.” Those happened several years ago, during a period he was also reported to be spending more than \$375 a week on cocaine. He explained, “I don’t think I did anything sober. When you suddenly become successful, the change is enormous, financially and in terms of recognition and the way people treat you. I found that hard to deal with. I just regret the hurt it caused my family.” Nesbitt says he “worked hard” to restore his marriage.

DR. PHIL says that money is the number one problem in marriages. And DailyFinance.com describes some of the issues as: secret spending, overspending, and one partner focusing on self instead of what the whole family needs.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, in a recent interview, admitted that the breakup of his marriage (to Maria Shriver) a few years ago was “one of the biggest failures” of his life. Schwarzenegger had an affair (and a child) with their housekeeper. A “very tough situation,” he said.

SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS in England have been charged with claiming expenses that actually amounted to taxpayer-funded perks for themselves. The report said that a “culture of entitlement” had officers even using corporate credit cards to pay for gifts and meals with mistresses. The investigation concluded that chief officers operated in an environment that presents “risks, pressures and temptations.”

MEN WHOSE WIVES EARN THE LIVING are more likely to be unfaithful, reports the *Huffington Post*. Not producing money for the household “tends to be a blow to men’s egos,” said psychologist Susan Heitler, adding that such men who cheat may be attempting to indicate personal power. The report added that some wives who cheat also don’t like being financially dependent on their husbands.

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 does money so often seem to be a factor in other problems?

If the people in these news items had considered the following statement “before” and again “after,” how do you think they would have filled in the blank each time? “What really matters to me is ____.”

How do these news items illustrate that many of our problems begin with the thoughts in our hearts and/or what we allow our eyes to look at?

How do you put first things first? Let’s take a look at what Jesus told His disciples their priorities should be . . . with eternity in mind.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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