

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Do Not Murder,” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for July 12, 2015. The lesson is found on page 35 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

It just happened . . . but it’s also part of a news story that’s 10 years old.

At this writing, various memorial events are scheduled to take place in London on or around July 7, 2015. Remembered will be the 52 victims of a series of suicide bomb attacks that occurred on July 7, 2005. Three bombs went off in subway trains in central London, as well as another bomb on a double-decker bus, just about the time morning rush hour was wrapping up. Hundreds were injured.

The bombers, who ranged in age from 18 to 30 and also died in the attacks, were identified as Hasib Hussain, Mohammad Sidique Khan, Germaine Lindsay, and Shehzad Tanweer. Potential involvement of Al-Qaeda (the radical Muslim organization founded by Osama bin Laden) was investigated. One leader, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, claimed that Al-Qaeda had been responsible. Some who claimed to share responsibility were discovered to have previously claimed a role in other events they had nothing to do with. And some accused the West of setting up the whole thing.

The BBC report said the bombers were driven by their “fierce antagonism to perceived injustices by the West against Muslims.” There apparently had not been any reason to believe that three of the men were capable of extremist violence. However, Khan had left a statement that he planned to martyr himself in an attack. He also said, “Your democratically elected governments continuously perpetuate atrocities against my people all over the world. And your support of them makes you directly responsible, just as I am directly responsible for protecting and avenging my Muslim brothers and sisters.”

Oddly, Muslims were among the victims, as were Christians, Jews, those of other religions, and those with no religious affiliation. Queen Elizabeth’s statement at the time decried “brutal acts against innocent people.”

Since 2005, memorial events have taken place every year, and an official memorial was unveiled by Prince Charles in 2009. This year’s memorial events include lectures, the placing of flowers, a #WalkTogether event, and a national moment of silence on July 7.

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:

How did the bombers justify their hate and their actions?

What did their actions say about the value they placed on the lives of others (who may or may not ever have done anything against them)? What value did they place on their own lives?

What do these memorial services (now in their 10th year) say about the value of life in the thinking of the people attending those services? Let’s see what God has to say about the value of human life.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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