

Use “The Scene” to introduce “About Law and Sin,” the High School Sunday school lesson for August 23, 2015. The lesson is found on page 73 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

The recent debate between Republican presidential hopefuls has filled the news. Though the spotlight has been heavily on celebrity Donald Trump, several candidates openly talked of their faith and how it influences those issues that they’d vote for or against.

Scott Walker (governor of Wisconsin) said he’s “an imperfect man and it is only by the blood of Jesus Christ that I have been redeemed from my sins.” He says he will “follow God’s will” and mentioned his record of always being pro-life.

When candidates were asked whether any of them had received “a word from God” about the first thing they should do if elected, Ted Cruz (U.S. senator from Texas) said that he is “blessed to receive a word from God every day.” He stated that he reads the Scriptures every day and that God speaks through the Bible. Cruz says that he has fought for religious liberty. He also said he has defended life his entire career, and that he will be proud to do so as president.

Jeb Bush (former governor of Florida) recalled his pro-life stand. A website that discusses Bush’s views on various issues says that when he was governor, he asked judicial candidates “how they would feel about having the Ten Commandments posted in their courtrooms.”

Mike Huckabee (former minister, former governor of Arkansas, talk-show host) says that with abortions we’re ignoring the rights of the individual unborn child; in other words, violating our own Constitutional law. In an article by the *Christian Post*, Huckabee said that when an issue at stake involves a biblical issue, it’s not OK to say, “I’m just going to evolve. . . . We’re so sensitive to make sure we don’t offend certain religions, but then we act like Christians can’t have the convictions that they’ve had for 2,000 years.”

Republicans and Democrats alike are known to accuse the other side of passing (or trying to pass) laws that violate our Constitution. In interviews and debates, some candidates’ answers seem vague, perhaps to appeal to voters whose views are at odds with the candidates’ own views. It remains to be seen whether some candidates are just sales-pitching . . . or whether, as president, they would honor both the country’s laws and their own faith.

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:

Some presidential candidates seem to believe that our country’s problems relate to not following God. Which issues do you think might fall into that category? Why?

Politicians are sometimes accused of taking a Band-Aid approach to solving problems—going for a small bit of relief instead of doing the hard work to deal with the entire, bigger issue. Have you ever done that with a problem/sin in your own life? What should you have done instead? Why?

How would you convince a friend that his problems were due to sin and not his finances, his friends, his parents’ rules, or bad luck? Let’s see what Paul says about conquering, not covering, sin.