

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Emotions. They’re all over the place—hard to predict, hard to understand, hard to control. In fact, teenagers are famous for their random emotional outbursts and mood swings. (As if you haven’t heard that from your parents a hundred million times. *Insert eye roll and bored-to-death sigh here.*) But guess what? You’re not alone! Check out these news stories from the last few weeks—and NONE of them involve anyone under the age of 21:

When a Florida nurse didn’t return from break during one of her shifts, a coworker called to see if she was OK. Forty-three-year-old Beverly Brooks shared the shocking news that she was being held against her will by her boyfriend. After searching for several hours, the Panama City police department found Beverly, unharmed. She confessed that she made up the whole “kidnapping” thing because she didn’t want to go back to work. She was arrested.

A flight in Bangkok, Thailand, was delayed by eight hours, finally arriving at 3:00 a.m. A group of Chinese tourists waiting for the flight was so enraged that they refused to board the plane until their demands were met. They then broke into a rousing chorus of the Chinese national anthem—inspiring hooting, shouting, and all-around chaos. Someone recorded the incident on a phone, and the China National Tourism Administration has now accused four of these men of “uncivilized behavior” and added their names to a list that is viewed by airlines, travel agencies, police, security agents, banks, and other creditors in China. For the next two to three years, any of these groups will now have the option of refusing service to the men because of their behavior.

An Anchorage, Alaska resident named Joshua Watford was convicted of driving under the influence, but didn’t take the court-ordered classes that were part of his punishment. So when he was spotted at a local pawnshop, the police showed up to arrest him. Watford was handcuffed and put in the back of the squad car. A passing motorist stopped to talk to the police officer before he got into the vehicle. While the officer was talking, Watford’s wife (Amber) figured this was her chance! She jumped behind the wheel of the squad car and took off with her husband. They were both taken into custody.

On a subway train from Queens to Manhattan, a 45-year-old woman asked a seated passenger to remove her bags from a seat so that she could sit down. When the passenger didn’t respond, the woman tried to sit down anyway. The seated passenger flew into a rage, scratching the woman on the chest, pulling her hair, and even biting her hard enough that she started bleeding. The victim was able to snap a picture on her cellphone, which the police used to track down the suspect.

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 were the people in these stories controlled by their emotions? What kinds of consequences did they face as a result?

When have uncontrolled emotions gotten you into trouble? When is it hard for you to keep your emotions in check?

Our emotions can measure what’s happening in our lives, but we can’t let our emotions run away with us. Today we’ll learn a biblical three-step strategy for taking charge of our emotions.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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