

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Matthew, the Tax Collector,” the High School Sunday school lesson for October 18, 2015. The lesson is found on page 43 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Although the legal requirements vary from state to state, driving a car is a privilege rather than a right. And it has to be earned. Written tests, driving tests, logged hours behind the wheel, parental supervision, temporary permits, proof of insurance—these are all things that most drivers have to go through in order to obtain a driver’s license. However, even after doing so, some people still don’t seem qualified to operate a vehicle. Here are some recent news headlines about less-than-competent drivers and the dangerous situations they create:

Drunk Driver Says His Dog Was Behind the Wheel. When a 26-year-old man was arrested after crashing his car into a home, fleeing the scene, and hiding in a nearby church bathroom, he claimed: “My dog was driving that car.” Police say they smelled both alcohol and marijuana on the man.

Teen Left Court Docs About Auto Theft in Stolen Car. An 18-year-old young man drove a stolen car to police headquarters to pick up court papers related to a previous auto theft for which he was being charged. When he arrived, police noticed the stolen vehicle in the parking lot. When they searched Butler, police found keys in his pocket to a third car—a Hyundai Sonata—that had also been reported stolen.

Owner Puts Dog into Idle Truck. Dog Sends It into Lake. A man in Ellsworth, Maine was walking his dog near a lake when it got into a scuffle with another dog. The man started his truck and put his dog inside so he could speak with the other dog’s owner. While they were talking, the dog bumped the truck into gear, causing it to roll into the lake. The dog was immediately rescued. The truck was not so lucky.

Woman Arrested After Live-Streaming Herself Driving Drunk. A 23-year old Florida woman spent nearly an hour streaming live video of herself driving while drunk. She was driving in circles, shouting profanities, and hitting curbs. After numerous 911 calls, police were able to track her down by recognizing city landmarks in her videos.

Australian Car Chase Ends in Indian Ocean. After a two-hour chase, a stolen car was driven into the ocean to avoid police. The police braved the waves, surrounded the car, and arrested 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:

Do you think any of these drivers is qualified to be operating a car? Why or why not?

Many privileges in this country have certain requirements. What requirements must be met in order to get a job? to attend college? to travel to another country? to vote?

Why do we have to earn the right to do each of these things?

Some rights or privileges must be earned—usually with good reason. Others are given freely—such as following Jesus. While the world often has certain standards that we must live up to, Jesus invites anyone to follow Him. Let’s see what happened with Jesus called an unlikely candidate, by society’s standards, to be His disciple.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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