

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Ten Lepers,” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for November 1, 2015. The lesson is found on page 55 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Sycamore Creek Church in Pickerington, Ohio, draws between 500–600 people to its worship services each week. But this month, the church has been drawing much more than that—including national media attention. After wrapping up a sermon series on generosity, the congregation ordered a \$5.99 pizza during one of its services. When the driver arrived, the pastor asked her the amount of the biggest tip she’d ever gotten. She said about \$10. The pastor then handed over more than \$1,000 that the church members had collected for her. She broke into tears.

Two weeks later, a church in Anchorage, Alaska, followed suit. Ken Felber has been a pizza delivery driver for 14 years. When he showed up to deliver an order to the Chugach Covenant Church, he was given a tip of \$1,900! Felber told the congregation that this is the coolest thing that’s ever happened to him. He’s keeping his celebration pretty low-key, though, as he’s in need of new snow tires and has medical expenses to pay for. But he did say he plans to take his wife out for a good spaghetti dinner.

And speaking of dinners, churches aren’t the only ones getting in on the generosity game. Tammy Yawn (a waitress in Orange, Texas) can certainly relate. She wanted to show her appreciation to a sheriff’s deputy who was dining with his family at PK’s Grill. “Watching this officer with his family touched my heart,” she said. “I brought their ticket to the cashier and told her when the deputy asks for his ticket, it had already been taken care of.” To her surprise, the officer left her a \$100 bill as a tip! She later received a phone call from the deputy, asking her not to mention his name when telling this story. She said “he didn’t do it to get recognized. He was just being nice.”

So what happens when an entire town decides to just “be nice”? A Christmas miracle. Seven-year-old Evan Leversage has an inoperable brain tumor that was diagnosed five years ago. When word spread throughout St. George, Ontario, that this Christmas would probably be the last for Evan, the whole town came together to bring Christmas a little early—as in last week! A snow machine turned Evan’s yard into a winter wonderland, complete with carolers. Neighbors collected toys for Evan and his brothers. Businesses decorated their store windows, and 7,000 people turned out for a Christmas parade—with Evan riding next to Santa in his sleigh. Says Evan’s mother, “He realized then, at that moment, how many people truly loved him.”

*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 do you feel when someone does something unexpected and generous for you? What other feelings might come along with gratitude?**

**Have you ever been so overwhelmed that it was hard to express your feelings? When? Why?**

**How do you think the lives of these people were changed by simple acts of kindness?**

**We’ve grown up learning to say “please” and “thank you.” But sometimes “thank you” just seems to fall short. It’s hard to say thanks for an undeserved gift motivated by the love of the giver. But we can learn a lot about expressing our gratitude from a leper who thanked Jesus.**



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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