

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Using Every Opportunity,” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for November 29, 2015. The lesson is found on page 81 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

# the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

James Moss is a single father of two. Living in New York, he made plans to start a better life for himself, his 5-year-old daughter, and his one-year-old son. A friend in Colorado offered him a job as a barber, and James lined up a place to stay. His mother agreed to take care of his daughter as he and his son, Zhi, began their trip across the country. But before the two of them could make it to Colorado, both the job and the housing James was counting on fell through. He made it to Denver, but with no car, no job, and nowhere to stay, the future looked pretty bleak. “I never expect it to be like this,” James said. “It seemed like everything I was trying to do was falling apart.” That all changed when James met Leon Logothetis.

Leon is on a nationwide campaign called #GoBeKind, encouraging people across the country to get more involved in each other’s lives through random acts of kindness. Leon approached James on the street, and James told him how he and his son came to be in their current situation. But James remained positive, concluding his interview with Leon by saying, “I guarantee you in a month’s time, I’ll make anything that I need to happen, happen. You have to be brought down to your humblest point so you can appreciate other things that are waiting for you.” He had no idea how true that statement would turn out to be.

Leon gave James \$1,000 and put him up in a Denver hotel for a week. When Kayla Heskett of Goodland, Kansas saw the interview on Leon’s video blog, she set up a GoFundMe account for James and his son. In just 11 days, the campaign raised nearly \$55,000. With that money James was able to move out of the shelter he was living in, and hopes to buy a car and a camper. He also hopes to be able to afford daycare soon, so that he doesn’t have to bring his son with him to the barbershop where he is now employed.

But the story doesn’t end there. In fact, it’s just the beginning for James. He spent last Saturday morning handing out sandwiches and other food items to homeless people in a Denver city park. He wants to pay forward the kindness he received and plans to organize more events like this in the future. “I was once in this position with my son,” James says. In a follow-up interview with Leon Logothetis, James said that he never “thought that a small act of kindness like that would spark such a huge chain reaction. . . .

“It just feels good. I’ve got a little tingly feeling going on.”

*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:*

**What do you think about James’ response to the situations he was in, both good and bad?**

**When have you had the opportunity to turn a bad situation into something positive? Have you ever missed an opportunity that you wish you’d have taken? How did you feel afterward?**

**When we pass up an opportunity to participate in something great, we may end up regretting it later. Let’s take a look at how the apostle Paul used every opportunity to participate in something great—sharing the gospel.**

*If time allows, go to YouTube.com and search for videos of James Moss and Leon Logothetis. Share one or more of these video clips with your students, along with today’s article.*



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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