

Use “The Scene” to introduce “He Shared Human Hardship” the High School Sunday school lesson for February 14, 2016. The lesson is found on page 69 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Valentine’s Day, the day we celebrate love of all kinds, is here. But for many people, Valentine’s Day can be the worst day ever. Your girlfriend dumps you right before the school dance. The guy you’ve liked all year comes up to you and announces he has a question: “Do you think your friend would go out with me?” Maybe it’s time to yank out that pint of rocky road and drown your sorrows in a lake of lactose.

But sometimes, every once in a while, a bad day can actually be the best thing that can happen to you. Canadian singer Daniel Powter can attest to that. His song “Bad Day” launched his career into the spotlight and became so successful in 2005, it reached the top five in the pop charts in more than ten countries. In 2006, after it reached the States, it became the first song ever to sell 2 million digital copies.

And yet, the award-winning song almost didn’t even get radio play. Powter wrote the song and recorded it in 2002. At first, no record labels wanted to release it. Powter composed the lyrics partially based on his life as a struggling musician, and it was definitely a struggle to find a home for this song. With the help of his music producer, Jeff Dawson, he sent the song off as a demo to record labels who asked him to come and perform it in New York. Though he was rejected then, the song eventually did get him an offer from Warner Bros. Records and went on to be a big commercial success.

Powter says the song isn’t really about having a bad day, but about “not taking yourself too seriously.” In one interview for the *New York Post*, he said he always remembers something his grandpa used to say to him, “There’s better people who are worse off than you” (article by Maxine Chen, July 16, 2006). Powter wants the song to actually make people feel better—by making them laugh a little at themselves.

So maybe this Valentine’s Day, if your romantic dreams haven’t come true, turn on “Bad Day” and go ahead and get the ice cream, but invite some friends over and have fun laughing at your misery together.

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:

Think about one of your worst days. What made it so bad?

Consider Powter’s quote from his grandpa. When you are going through a bad day, or even a rotten week, does it help at all to know other people are going through hard things too? Why or why not?

How do you think it might be helpful to talk to God about your bad days? Do you feel like God can understand what you are going through? Explain your answer.

We all have bad days. We sometimes question whether anyone really understands what we are going through. The Bible teaches that there *is* someone who understands. Jesus has walked where we walk. Let’s see what the Bible says about His trials and troubles.