

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Trusting in Jesus” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for February 7, 2016. The lesson is found on page 63 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Super Bowl Sunday is upon us! And whether you care about a bunch of extremely well-paid guys throwing around a funny-shaped ball or not, it’s hard not to get caught up in the drama and excitement of the event. And the commercials! Who could forget the commercials?

With a game of such high visibility and high stakes for the players, coaches, owners, and advertisers, and between two teams of such high ability, there is always the chance to see some amazing moments that make for great television—and great storytelling for sports broadcasters for years to come. Such a moment occurred in the 2008 Super Bowl between the New England Patriots and the New York Giants. It was a play that would later be dubbed “the play of the decade,” “the greatest play the Super Bowl has ever produced,” and nicknamed “The Double Miracle,” among other names. NFL Films founder Steve Sabol even declared the play “defied logic, history, gravity and just about anything else you care to mention.”

It was the final two minutes of the championship game. The Patriots were in the lead 14–10, and the Giants had the ball on their 44-yard line. Giants quarterback Eli Manning took the snap and escaped heavy pressure from the defense, including being held by the back of his jersey as a lineman tried to yank him down to the ground. Somehow Manning stayed on his feet and ducked under flying arms to get into position to make his throw to wide receiver David Tyree. Tyree leapt in the air to catch the ball with both hands, only to have his left hand knocked loose by Patriots safety Rodney Harrison. But Tyree managed to smash the ball with his right hand against his helmet, securing possession of the ball and gaining 32 yards for his team on a drive that would then give them the winning touchdown in a huge upset for the Patriots, who had a completely undefeated season up until that moment.

Some would say it was a miracle. It was definitely dramatic. But was it divine intervention? Probably not. Though that play was stunning, it was just one part of a well-orchestrated game that came out of thousands and thousands of hours of practice, skilled communication, and refined athletic ability. In other words—a lot of work. But that doesn’t make it any less amazing.

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 is a miracle? What are some effects that miracles can have?

Do you think the moment described above was miraculous? Why or why not?

Think of a time something really amazing happened to you. Maybe you won an award you never expected to get or escaped injury by the skin of your teeth. How would you describe that event? Do you think God had a hand in what happened? Explain.

Jesus made some outrageous claims that were backed up by even more outrageous actions. The miracles of Jesus were both incredible and important. Let’s look at what His miracles accomplished.