

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Are You Committed?” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for February 21, 2016. The lesson is found on page 75 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

He was just one guy. By all accounts, an extremely intelligent, witty, articulate, outspoken, and passionate guy. But just one guy. And yet he has now left a huge hole—the filling of which even now is causing sweat to break out on the foreheads of lawyers, congresspersons, civil rights activists, and yes, probably even of the president of the United States.

From the moment the news broke this past week, the death of Justice Antonin Scalia has caused ripples of anxiety and speculation to flow through the streets of Washington and beyond. Who will replace this Supreme Court justice who has made such a huge impact on some of the major legal decisions of the last three decades? Will the new appointee be conservative or liberal? Will this decision be made during the current presidency or postponed until after the new president takes office in 2017?

Many times key moments in our lives come and go, and we don’t even realize the impact of them until long after the moments have passed. But here is a moment that will be reported on, argued over, and no doubt stretched out over the next several months—maybe even years. It’s impossible to miss it. It’s history in the making—right now, as we watch it unfold. And all because of this one guy.

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:

Consider the fact that Supreme Court justices in the United States are appointed to serve for life. What difference do you think that might make to the kind of impact they can have? Discuss the pros and cons of allowing justices to serve in these powerful positions for as long as they are alive and well.

Imagine for a moment that you were asked to be the next person to serve on the Supreme Court. What would go through your mind as you considered whether or not to accept this opportunity? What factors would influence your decision?

Taking on a lifetime post as a Supreme Court justice is a huge commitment. It’s a great opportunity that comes with heavy responsibility. Have you made any decisions in your life that offered you big opportunities along with great responsibility? Describe some of those moments in your life when you made those decisions.

For followers of the Lord Jesus, deciding to walk in obedience to Jesus is probably the most important turning point. When one seeks to please Christ, it alters one’s life in many ways. Let’s look at what Jesus said about those challenges.