

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Avoiding Hypocrisy” the High School Sunday school lesson for June 5, 2016. The lesson is found on page 5 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Now we not only have to be worried about people taking drugs—we have to be worried about fake drugs. In California, Tennessee, Ohio, Florida, and several other states across the country, a string of deaths have been reported related to the use of fake drugs being sold under the name of Xanax, Norco, and as oxycodone.

The main killer component is a drug called fentanyl, which is 25 to 40 times more powerful than heroin, and is usually used for cancer patients who no longer can be comforted by normal painkillers. Deaths due to fentanyl overdoses have increased three times in many states. Ohio is on track to have a 33 percent increase in fentanyl-related cases this year.

Authorities have in many cases traced the production of the deadly drug to Chinese labs, but still, tracking down the actual pills and the people who are supplying them to US citizens has been very difficult. And with the demand for pain-killing medications at an all-time high, it doesn't look like the supply is going to stop any time soon.

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above story to read. Then discuss it in this way:

Before we begin our discussion, it is important to note that most of these fatalities happened in situations where people were obtaining drugs illegally, or at the very least, not going through normal, approved channels to get the medicines. Having said that, what are your thoughts about this story?

For people who have an addiction illness, the taking of such a powerful drug could lead to their deaths eventually, even if they didn't have an immediate overdose. And yet it's often hard to reach such individuals with the kind of information that could help them avoid this drug. If you were a police officer trying to educate a community, how would you go about it? What would you do to reach out to people?

Have you ever been pranked and tricked into drinking or eating something that wasn't the real thing? Why did the prank work? What makes us less or more likely to believe in something that isn't genuine?

Some substitutes are helpful, but other substitutes are shallow excuses for the real deal and leave us disappointed with, or even injured by, the results. Let's take a look at some poor substitutes who claimed to worship God—the Pharisees.