

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Showing Compassion” the High School Sunday school lesson for June 12, 2016. The lesson is found on page 11 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

A video making the rounds this week showed a young man running into a neighbor’s garage to get something. The neighbor had noticed some suspicious activity and checked back through her security camera footage to see what was going on and perhaps catch a criminal in action.

But no crime was being committed. The figure running up to the house turned out to be a little boy. And what was he getting out of the garage? A hug. The boy would often ride past the house on his bike and see the neighbor’s dog, Duchess, in the open garage. Whenever he spotted him, the boy would drop his bike, run into the garage, give the dog a quick hug and several pats around the neck, then run back and hop on his bike again.

It was later reported that the little boy had apparently lost his own family dog not long ago when the dog died of old age. The boy, named Josh, just wanted to love on the neighbor’s dog, and now he has official permission to come and play with Duchess any time he likes, thanks to the caring spirit of his neighbor.

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

When you hear about someone getting into a neighbor’s garage, it’s not usually good news. What steps did the garage owner take that allowed for this to be a happy ending? What are some other ways it could have ended?

How can having compassion for others help us to look for ways to understand people? How does having compassion prevent us from making assumptions? Which do you think comes first, understanding or compassion? Explain your answer.

Are there certain kinds of people you have trouble having compassion for? Why?

One of the worst feelings in the world is when we think that no one cares about us. But one person always cares about us—Jesus. Let’s take a look at one example of how Jesus pours compassion on people.