

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Practicing Humility” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for June 19, 2016. The lesson is found on page 17 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

# the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

This is one of those weeks when you just want to turn off all technology and hide for a while. There have been some devastating stories in the news—all marked by moments of horror and tremendous anguish. And everyone with a phone or computer seems to be voicing their opinions on the events. From the presidential candidates down to Joe or Jill in Nowheresville. And why? Why does everyone feel their words must be heard? Or more important, why do people see the need to make these stories about their own causes?

If there is ever a moment where humility is called for, it is in a time of grief. Grief reminds us of what we have, and what we haven't. It shows us exactly the points at which any control we thought we had ends. Grief brings us to the ground, literally humbling us.

And when we go to others who are grieving, it's exactly that posture which is appropriate—bowed low, ready to lift someone else up. In *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis describes the difference between pride and humility. He talks about what a humble man is like—that he is not one who is calling attention to himself or talking about how low he is. He will not be the one making sure his statements are added to the mix. Rather, the humble man won't be making much noise at all: “He will not be thinking about humility; he will not be thinking about himself at all.” The humble man will be listening to others.

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

**The recent shootings in Orlando have led to many controversial discussions around the world. What are some of the opinions and arguments that you've heard in connection with this event?**

**While everyone is free to form opinions on such events, do you think it's good for everyone to voice those opinions? Why or why not? What could be bad about doing that?**

**How would you describe a humble person? How would you describe an arrogant person? Why is it important to practice humility when trying to comfort others?**

**Arrogance is an ugly trait; it can cause a great deal of damage in our relationships. Humility, on the other hand, can heal relationships. Let's take a look at the biblical characteristics of a humble person.**