

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Demonstrating Integrity” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for June 26, 2016. The lesson is found on page 23 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Japan’s latest ninja squad will demonstrate amazing acrobatic skills, be knowledgeable in many areas, and . . . take great selfies.

Recently an American made the news for being selected as Japan’s first paid non-Japanese ninja. A region of Japan hired seven full-time ninja after auditioning more than 235 applicants. Twenty-nine-year-old, Tokyo-based Chris O’Neill won one of the coveted spots after impressing the hiring panel with his acrobatics and public speaking (another skill the stealthy ninja of feudal times are not typically given credit for).

These ninja will be paid to do back flips and use throwing stars in front of crowds and to pose for photos with tourists. It’s a far cry from the acts of espionage and assassination the mercenaries were paid for between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries—but hey, it sounds like a pretty good gig in any case. Real ninja were probably considered too dangerous to promote tourism—and too expensive. (Facts courtesy of *The Japan Times* online.)

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

This article talks about people who are hired to play a part. Have you ever found an actor’s performance so convincing that you actually believed they were being real and not just playing a part? What happened?

This ninja squad may seem just like another tourism gimmick, but the people that were hired did have real skills—even though they might not qualify as actual ninja. How can you tell if a person is who they say they are? What kinds of clues do you look for?

What are some qualities that mark out a person as someone you can trust? Is it possible to know someone who is always true to himself, but isn’t someone you can rely on? Could that person be described as having integrity or not? Explain your answers.

Sometimes it’s difficult to tell what’s true and what’s false. But if you know the source is full of integrity, it’s easier to know what to believe. Today we’re going to find out what a person of integrity looks like.