

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Making a Difference in Your Community” the High School Sunday school lesson for August 21, 2016. The lesson is found on page 75 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



While some teens have been training for the opportunity to win medals in this year’s Olympic competition, other teens around the world have been working to make a different mark on their worlds. So far in 2016, there have been teens making community gardens, running jeans drives for underprivileged kids, raising funds for classmates battling chronic illnesses, and volunteering with political campaigns. There are teens who have set up free lending libraries, teens helping other teens fight drug addiction, and teens creating ad campaigns to stop classmates from texting while driving.

One of the largest global organizations created to promote positive social change among young people, DoSomething.org, currently has 5.3 million members in 130 countries. Recent campaigns have addressed such issues as environmental concerns, homelessness, and teen pregnancy.

TheRebellion.com was a website born out of the minds of two teenage Christian brothers who were fed up with the idea that their whole generation had bought into a “culture of low expectations.” Alex and Brett Harris started a blog to encourage young people to “do hard things.” That blog then became a book, which led to annual conferences and hundreds of thousands of dollars being raised for missions and charities. Their blog still actively encourages teens every day to stand up for what is right and make difficult choices. Recent discussions on the site have addressed a broad range of issues, from fighting unjust laws to attitudes about video games—all relevant to teens’ everyday lives.

Whatever your passion is, you can make a difference in your community—even just by the words you say, the things you post online, and where you choose to spend your money, time, and talents. You don’t have to win a medal to make a big splash in your world!

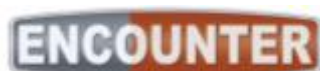
As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above article to read. Then discuss it in this way:

Have you ever participated in an event to make a positive change happen in your community? What was that like?

The Harris brothers felt like their generation might be buying into a “culture of low expectations.” Do you feel like that ever happens among the people you know? How do you think culture affects your willingness or your ability to make change happen?

What are some things you need to consider if you see a problem happening either in your school or your city? What kinds of things can you do just in your own interactions with people that might make a difference in someone’s life?

Many of us want to make a difference in our communities, but it’s hard to know where to start. Let’s take a look at Scripture to understand three roles Christians are expected to play in their communities.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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