

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Triumph over Temptation” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for September 4, 2016. The lesson is found on page 5 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



In the 1971 film version of the Roald Dahl’s children’s classic, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (the film was titled *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*), we watch as five children are allowed entry into the place of any child’s dreams—a wonderland of sugary treats, delicious chocolates, and delectable innovations. As the golden ticket winners get a peek behind the scenes of Willy Wonka’s secret wonderworks, they are continually warned about the dangers of not listening to Mr. Wonka’s instructions and are made to sign an extensive contract promising not to sample or take any of the creative confections. Subsequently, each child is tempted by a treat or activity that appears uniquely designed to prey upon that child’s greatest weakness. And in the end the viewers realize that all the temptations were part of Wonka’s plan to weed out the weak links and find a child—Charlie Bucket—who was honest enough to become his heir, inheriting his entire business.

Though the film was considered something of a flop during its original release, since then it has been seen by millions through repeated televised airings and has become a cult classic. Certainly most children of the 70s know it well—even as I write this several childhood nightmares featuring the weird and wonderful Oompa-Loompas come vividly to mind.

Part of the story and movie’s dark appeal comes from the sense of not knowing for certain what is real and what is not—what actually happened to the children who succumbed to temptation and disappeared in seemingly horrible circumstances? The film’s star, Gene Wilder (who passed away just this week at the age of 83), understood this quality of the script well—he accepted the role only on the condition that he be allowed to add a unique scene toward the beginning, when Wonka first greets the golden ticket winners and appears hobbling on a cane, then proceeds to leap into a beautiful somersault. “From then on, no one will know if I’m lying or telling the truth,” Wilder said (Will Perkins, “Gene Wilder’s Willy Wonka Demands Revealed,” Yahoo.com).

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above article to read. If you have time, you might want to show a clip of the film as well! Then discuss it in this way:

If you have seen this film or read the book, you may know about some of the temptations the children faced. Give an example of how one temptation seemed particularly suited to a certain child. Do you ever feel like temptations in real life are aimed at your weaknesses? Explain.

Not everyone is tempted to eat candy. What are some temptations that you or your friends face on a regular basis?

What are some things that help you reject or avoid temptation? Think about how you would advise a friend to deal with temptation. What would you say?

Daily we are surrounded by temptations that we must resist. James, the half brother of Jesus, describes four sources of temptation in our Bible lesson today. Let’s find out what they are and how we can resist them.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

© 2016 Encounter Curriculum. Written by Laura Derico. Copies may be made for classroom use only. Not for resale.

<http://www.encounterface2face.com/category/the-scene/>