

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Community vs. Isolation” the High School Sunday school lesson for October 2, 2016. The lesson is found on page 29 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



Crowdfunding has become the new job for some folks. If you look around on GoFundMe.com (one of the most popular crowdfunding sites) for long, you’ll find people asking for money to fund their plastic surgery, to go out on a date, and to license their lemonade stands. There are campaigns to raise funds (and compassion) for horribly sad stories of lives being destroyed by cancer and also campaigns that will warm your heart as you ponder giving to the retirement fund of an elderly popsicle vendor in Chicago. There are also those who invite you to be an investor in some sort of creative venture—calling to mind the benefactors of bygone times who used to supply the needs of great artists in their cities.

But what’s worth it, and what isn’t? How do you decide? Is it OK for a relatively healthy young man who is simply having a hard time finding work to create an account and ask people to fund his life for a time? Or is it his responsibility to just try harder to find a job? Why is it OK for some people to get money to fund their medical expenses while others with less interesting stories struggle for years to pay off debt?

Perhaps giving to these funds is just one more way to be part of a bigger community. You just have to decide which community you want to invest in.

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

What do you think about the issues raised in this article? What is your general impression of people who ask for money on sites such as GoFundMe.com?

If you had money to donate, how would you decide what campaigns to fund? What would be your reasoning? Do you think it’s important to know whether the person you are funding is a Christian or not? Explain.

Do you think it’s a good idea for people to depend on others to help them financially? Is this a way to be part of a community? Explain your answers.

There are many ways people try to be part of a community these days—crowdfunding may represent one of the most recent ways. Let’s think about this as we look at three characteristics of Christian community that Paul described in the last chapter of Galatians.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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