

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Power Up” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for October 2, 2016. The lesson is found on page 29 of *Young Teen 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.

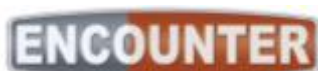
As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above article to read. Then discuss it in this way:

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 a good idea for people to depend on others to help them financially? Is it empowering to be able to participate in a community in this way? Explain your answers.

Money certainly wields a certain kind of power in our society. It can allow us to help others and even to feel part of a community. But the Bible talks about other kinds of powers. Let’s look at what James says about the power of prayer.



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/>