

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Satan’s Showdown” the High School Sunday school lesson for October 16, 2016. The lesson is found on page 43 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



If ever there was a moment when a person is tested, in almost every way, it must be when a person decides to run for a high political office. In the United States, the people who decide to run for president must submit not just to having their political policies run over with a fine-tooth comb, but to having every word or deed they ever said or did viewed, analyzed, written about, talked about, and judged in every public forum currently available to humans—and that’s a lot.

It’s no wonder there are few of us who even dare to try to enter this particular competition. Though surely, the public can be somewhat forgiving, or at times, even pragmatically unconcerned about such matters. But there are times when certain words, certain assertions about what one is willing to do or not do, lay heavily on the audience’s ears. Are words ever just words? Or is it rather true that “the mouth speaks what the heart is full of” (Luke 6:45, *NIV*)?

Social media posts have been filled with arguments on both sides of this question lately, and wherever you stand, one thing is certain to be true—we could all be a bit more careful with what comes out of our mouths. And that means, we should all be a bit more careful with what is going on in our hearts.

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 this question: are words ever just words?

Think about the things you’ve said just in the last month or even in the last week. How do you think you would do if people were judging everything you said or did in that time?

Have you ever been in a position where you were really being tested to stand up for who you are? What happened?

We all face moments of truth at one time or another when a crucial decision must be made. The temptation of Jesus was one of those moments of truth. With three types of temptations, Satan did his best to turn Jesus away from the road that would lead to the cross. Let’s identify them.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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