

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Satan’s Purpose” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for October 9, 2016. The lesson is found on page 37 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



Appropriately timed for the upcoming October holiday, the sightings of scary clowns have begun to increase across the country. Dozens of appearances of people wearing hideous clown masks and sometime full costumes have occurred within recent weeks and authorities are expecting the numbers to rise.

Although most of these sightings have just resulted in people being freaked out to varying degrees, at least one encounter with a person in a scary clown costume resulted in the stabbing death of a teenager in Pennsylvania. Another woman reported being assaulted by one of the clowns and other reports suggested scary clown figures were trying to lure children away from playgrounds.

So what’s the point of these appearances? Are these people working together? From the accounts so far reported, it doesn’t seem so. Some have called the clown impostors evil. Are they evil people? Probably not. Most likely the perpetrators are young, immature pranksters, hoping perhaps to get their antics made famous on the local news. But are the people behind those masks sharing in the same evil motivations that seem to fuel Satan’s schemes—to instill fear, to terrorize, to prey on people’s weaknesses, to deliberately deceive and confuse others for ill intent or personal gain? What do you think?

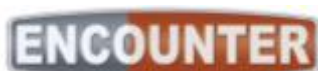
As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above article to read. Then discuss it in this way:

What do you think about the appearances of scary clowns? Are they just silly pranks? Or are they meant to cause harm?

What do you think would be the right response if you saw a scary clown in your area? What should happen to the people who are behind these appearances? Does it matter what their intentions were? Why or why not?

Is scaring other people an evil thing to do? Explain your answer.

Unlike the probable perpetrators of these scary clown appearances, Satan is an intelligent deceiver with a real plan to subject this world. Let’s look at how we can expose that strategy as we study God’s Word today.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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