

Use “The Scene” to introduce “The Cause of Discontent” the High School Sunday school lesson for November 13, 2016. The lesson is found on page 69 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



As I write this, election results are still coming in. But one thing is for certain, from the closeness of some of the state races, and from the breakdown of the county votes, the United States is deeply divided along many different demographic lines. Urban vs. rural, college-educated vs. not, race vs. race, religion vs. religion, male vs. female, and the conflicts go on.

When people wake up the day after election day, there will be many who find themselves in a state of deep discontent. Many will be fearful of what will happen next. Many will complain about the results. Many will watch the falling stock market and wish they had more security. More money. More freedom. More of something.

The truth is, we humans are always trying to fill up these holes. These spaces where we feel like the ground we are standing on is shaky. Where we just aren't certain, and cannot see the future. Where we are out of control. And it's in moments like these that we who follow the Creator of hearts and minds and souls and bodies need to remind one another that no matter what, He is in control. Keep depending on Him. Keep leading others to Him. And then we will see, as the Lord told Moses, whether or not what He says will come true (see Numbers 11:23).

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

Talk about a time when you felt really frustrated by the outcome of some major plan or decision that affected you personally. What did you do?

Did your feelings about that decision cause you to react in a negative way at all to others—maybe people close to you in your family or close friends? How did you react to the people who seemed responsible for the decision? How did you react to people who seemed to benefit from the decision?

What is something you've discovered that can help you get out of a bad mood or help you to deal with this kind of frustration?

It's easy, when the results don't turn out the way we expect, to react in a negative way—taking it out on others, or even growing envious of those who seem to be the winners. But dwelling in discontentment is not healthy for anyone. And allowing envy to grow can poison us and our relationships with others. Today we're going to look at three results that came from Saul's envy of David.