

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Choosing Contentment” the High School Sunday school lesson for November 20, 2016. The lesson is found on page 75 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



Oh, for the days when Black Friday actually happened only on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Or for the days when Christmas shopping actually happened closer to Christmas!

These days the Black Friday and Pre-Black Friday ads started showing up in October. I even saw a “Black Friday in July” ad back in the summer. Everybody is offering the best deals, the earliest previews, the biggest markdowns, and the hottest buys. You’d think with all those superlatives, we’d all be feeling a lot more, well, super!

But with the onset of Christmas shopping season also comes shopping anxiety—we worry about what to buy, what will make everyone on our list happy, what to buy for people who aren’t even on our list yet, and how in the world to pay for it all. Not to mention getting it all wrapped and delivered in time for Christmas morn!

The latest toys on the “hot” list for Christmas include animals that hatch out of eggs, a game in which people stick a device in their mouths so they can’t really be heard clearly (I can think of a few people I’d like to give this to), a Santa vs. Jesus board game (I kid you not), and drones—drones with cameras, drones with flashing lights, drones with baby drones, drones, drones, and more drones.

So what’s on your list this year? What will make you happy on Christmas morning? Or will you be happy no matter what shows up in those pretty, wrapped packages? And can you stop shopping and fretting long enough to remember what Christmas is really about?

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

What’s on your Christmas list this year?

What are the top worries on your Christmas list this year?

How do you decide what to give as gifts? What goes into your decision process?

Just like looking for the perfect Christmas gift, people have always searched for the secret to contentment. God gives us the secrets to true contentment in His Word. Today we’re going to look at three characteristics that define a contented Christian.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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