

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Listening for God’s Call” the High School Sunday school lesson for January 13, 2019. The lesson is found on page 43 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

The time of a new year beginning is often the time we look back at the previous year and think about all those who passed away. Last year was one in which two celebrities who seemed to be thriving were found to have ended their own lives.

Kate Spade was a fashion designer and successful businesswoman. Her signature handbags were desired by many women, and her forward-thinking ideas were sought after by many leaders in the industry. But despite her success and popularity, she struggled with depression, and tragically died by hanging at age 55.

Anthony Bourdain was described as a gifted chef, author, and storyteller. His celebrated documentary-style show, *Parts Unknown*, was an award-winning CNN series in which Bourdain brought viewers along with him as he traveled the world, sampling culture and cuisine. He was in the middle of the filming schedule for the series when he was found unresponsive in his hotel room in France. He had taken his own life at the age of 61, just days after Kate Spade was found in her Manhattan apartment.

Their deaths left many questioning how such people who seemed to be doing so well could be dealing with such deep pain. Everyone wanted to know why, including their loved ones. All we can see is that career success is definitely not a cure for suicidal thoughts and may even be detrimental to those who are suffering with mental health problems.

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above to read. After all teens have had the opportunity to read the article, discuss it in this way:

What do you think about the deaths of these two famous people?

What are some ways career success can bring loneliness and depression?

What’s your definition of being successful?

Success doesn’t happen by accident, and sometimes the effort to be successful can really wear on people. Wisdom is required. Today we’ll examine three key principles for achieving success in God’s service.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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