

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Relationships That Last,” the High School Sunday school lesson for March 24, 2019. The lesson is found on page 23 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

# the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Some teens from Philadelphia are preparing for life by preparing to ride horses. A program called Work to Ride, created by former competitive rider Lezlie Hiner, is helping inner-city youth find purpose and self-confidence by allowing them to learn equestrian and grooming skills in exchange for working with a horse and staying in school. Hiner also developed a polo program, launching the country’s first all-black team in 1999. In March, Hiner’s team won the United States Polo Association National Interscholastic Championship for the second year in a row.

One of the teens currently in the program is Sydney Rutledge, who has been participating for four years. Before she started, she never imagined caring for a horse, much less riding one on her own. The fifteen-year-old grew up in a neighborhood marked by gang activity and drug abuse. And all those stresses and pressures of her daily life didn’t go away when she joined Work to Ride. One day on the way home from polo practice, she watched a man get shot on the sidewalk in front of her.

But on the field with the horses, these teens can feel in control and have a sense of freedom and strength. Sydney, once fearful of the big animals, now says her favorite part is “going fast.” She loves “the feeling when we are just running down the field together.”

Taking care of the horses has taught Sydney and the others how to take care of themselves, and to be able to hope for a life they might not otherwise have even dreamed of.

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

**What do you think people can learn from taking care of animals?**

**What does taking care of animals teach us about living and working with humans?**

**What do you think Sydney and the other teens in the program may find easier to do now that they have had a chance to take care of horses and learn to ride?**

**There are lots of parts of our lives that are out of our control. But that doesn’t mean we can’t do things to help us learn how to be prepared for life situations. Being prepared can help us to be successful, no matter what the situation is. Marriage is one situation that God wants us to be successful in—and He’s shown us some ways to have healthy, long-lasting relationships, such as what should happen between a man and wife. Today we’ll look at the story of Isaac and Rebekah and think about some characteristics of a lasting relationship.**



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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