

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Faithfulness” the High School Sunday school lesson for January 28, 2018. The lesson is found on page 57 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

That special Sunday is coming up. The day when worship of God and love of football come together for one shining moment. You guessed it—Super Bowl Sunday! This year we’ll get to watch the dramatic showdown between the Philadelphia Eagles and the returning champions, the New England Patriots.

Players have all kinds of different routines and training practices they use to get ready for big moments like this. But for at least some of the Philadelphia Eagles players, their pre-game prep is going to involve time in the Word of God.

“[The Bible] is really the secret to life. If you’re not rooted in God’s Word, this world will eat you up,” said Carson Wentz, quarterback. Wentz and several other players have formed a tight fellowship of believers who commit to Bible study every week. During training in the offseason, the group would meet before practice at least three times a week for Bible study, teaching, and devotional time and prayer. Once the regular season kicked in, they had to grab time where they could, meeting for prayer after practices or holding Bible study at someone’s house or even in hotel rooms when they were on the road.

Offensive player Trey Burton was quoted as saying, “We love the word. We could talk about it all day long.”

Burton also commented on the importance of personal faithfulness and commitment to studying God’s Word, rather than only relying on hearing teaching from pastors, chaplains, or other religious speakers and writers. “You hear stories where people revolve around pastors, and that’s not the way it should be. It should be around God’s Word. You won’t understand it until you open it up.”

Besides personal and group Bible study, all the members of this fellowship group have found ways to serve God in their communities and through global missions, helping with everything from homeless organizations in Philadelphia to International Justice Mission initiatives to fight child trafficking and sexual abuse. To read more about the players involved, see the article on this by writer and pastor Joshua Cooley, as published in *Bible Study Magazine* (<http://www.biblestudymagazine.com/novdec-2017-eagles/>).

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

What do you think about the statement made by Wentz—that the world will eat you up if you’re not rooted in God’s Word? What do you think he meant?

Considering the busy schedules of NFL players, what does it say to you that they take time for Bible study?

Burton pointed out the importance of personal study instead of just relying on group fellowship. What do you think about that? Which is more important to you?

These NFL players support each other and help each other to remain faithful in their pursuit of godliness. Today we’ll look at Paul’s encouragement to help Timothy remain faithful to God no matter what.