

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Christian Character” the High School Sunday school lesson for February 11, 2018. The lesson is found on page 69 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

HYPERLINK "<http://www.encounterface2face.com/category/the-scene/>"



The winter Olympics are in full swing and the world’s best skiers, skaters, and curlers have gathered in South Korea to compete. Right before the games began however, a cloud of controversy hung over the event as last-minute deliberations were being made over which Russian athletes, formerly accused of being part of a documented doping system, would be allowed to participate in this year’s games.

Some athletes voiced adamant protest against any of these athletes being allowed to compete, as in their opinion, the players had been found guilty of cheating—no matter how that cheating had come about, or how much they were aware of the bigger system at work. The idea being that if as an athlete you are handed a pill and take that pill without asking what it is, then you are still at fault.

But Canadian cross-country skier Alex Harvey was heard taking a sympathetic tone. “I was born in Quebec City with great parents, great education,” he was quoted as saying, in referring to the Russian athletes. “It doesn’t justify them doping. But I can understand why they say yes because when they win an Olympic medal, they get a big check cut for themselves. And they’re set up for the rest of their life.”

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

**If you were an athlete competing in the Olympics, what do you think that would be like? How much pressure do you think would be on you?**

**What are some ways that a person’s character might affect their ability to perform as an athlete? Or does it not really matter what their character is as long as they are able to win?**

**Often, athletes who win medals at the Olympics are held up as role models for young people. Do you think this is fair? Why or why not?**

**Leaders in sports can share qualities with leaders in life. Paul instructed Timothy about the characteristics of a true leader. Let’s discover what they are.**