

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Peer Pressure” the High School Sunday school lesson for March 4, 2018. The lesson is found on page 5 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

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Teens and Tide pods. Two things you thought would never be thought of as a pair—especially since laundry is indirectly involved.

The dare became an Internet meme—the challenge is to try to eat the highly concentrated laundry detergent packets. Now of course, this is not a good idea. In fact, it’s a toxic idea. The potential effects from ingesting the packets can include seizures, respiratory arrest, coma, and even death. In January of this year alone, poison control centers received 134 reports of intentional ingestion of laundry packets. Compare that with the 53 cases that happened for the entire previous year (most of which also involved teens).

Why—you might well ask—would anyone knowingly eat laundry detergent? It seems it’s just a case of a silly joke that has gone a step too far. But whenever you mix the words *teens* and *challenge*, it can be a dangerous combination. The desire to impress or, alternatively, gross out friends is sometimes just too strong to resist, apparently.

Now if we could just somehow switch the challenge to a Tide clean challenge and have it be about who can do the most laundry in a week—that would be something.

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

What do you think about the Tide pod challenge?

Have you ever done something really ridiculous because you felt you had to do it to be like your peers? What happened? And if you haven’t done something like that, why not?

Why do you think peer pressure is such a strong factor in teens’ lives?

Peer pressure is an everyday presence for many of us. People in the Bible experienced it too. Let’s look at the experience of Aaron, the brother of Moses, when he faced such pressure.