

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Conquering Cliques” the High School Sunday school lesson for March 25, 2018. The lesson is found on page 23 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

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In a world where individualism is highly valued and “you do you” is the goal of the day, it’s no wonder that it’s hard for teens to find groups in which they feel a sense of real belonging. If everyone is out for themselves, who has time to be there for others?

One of the latest game crazes reinforces this thinking. Fortnite: Battle Royale throws 100 players into a world together—a world in which only one can actually end up surviving. And even though the odds are pretty slim, the chance of that victory happening seems to keep players coming back again and again. There are currently more than 40 million players worldwide, and that number will no doubt continue to grow.

Even though it’s a multiplayer shooter game (some call it “Call of Duty for kids”), the violence in the graphics is depicted in a cartoon-style that makes it much less offensive for parents, and the goofy sense of humor (funny outfits, characters can dance, etc.) makes the game that much more appealing to kids. Strangely, kids may now be bonding over their very individual Fortnite survival experiences.

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

What do you think about this game? What have you heard about it?

Do you think video games are generally social experiences? Why or why not? Are these experiences different from people watching sports? Explain your answer.

It’s easy for people to get stuck into one kind of club or group doing the same thing all the time. What’s one way you can make friends in other social groups?

The closer people become in a group, the harder it often is for new people to join. This kind of cliquish behavior can even happen within the church. Let’s look at what happened to a newly converted Saul of Tarsus when he tried to join with the apostles in the church of Jerusalem.