

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Trusting God When I Feel Used” the High School Sunday school lesson for May 20, 2018. The lesson is found on page 75 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

If you’ve seen *Avengers: Infinity War* (don’t worry—no spoilers here!), you may have been moved by an intense scene between Thanos (the villain who wants to control the universe) and his adopted daughter Gamora (also known as “that green lady”). Gamora becomes aware in this scene that Thanos, though she suffered at his hand, and though he wiped out her entire race and raised her to be a killer, actually might have fatherly feelings toward his daughter, in his way. She can’t imagine this possibility at first—and her sincere doubt of this truth ends up being a weakness, of sorts.

Without giving away the plot, we can consider this scene and the provocative questions it raises. Can someone who is bent on destruction and power have genuine feelings of love? And what does it mean if they can? What kind of power is gained or given away by the act of loving another person? Is it ever loving to hurt someone on purpose? How does harsh treatment at the hands of another person change a person’s perspective and understanding of relationships?

And you thought it was just another comic book movie . . .

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

Think about a time when you were hurt by someone in a minor, one-time event. Maybe someone told a joke that hurt your feelings or physically hurt you while playing a sport. How did you feel about that? How did you react to the hurt?

How do you think your reactions to someone hurting you would change if that pain kept being inflicted repeatedly over a long time? How would that change how you felt about the person inflicting the pain? How would that effect how you felt about yourself?

Have you ever hurt another person on purpose? What did you learn from being in that position?

It can be very painful to be hurt or feel used by another person. Paul gives us advice about how we can trust God when we feel used.