

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Practicing Humility” the High School Sunday school lesson for June 16, 2019. The lesson is found on page 17 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Arrogant . . . or honest? That’s the question being asked about one high school valedictorian this year who decided to use her speaking time to thank those who had been useful to her, and to blast those who hadn’t.

School officials say the girl, Nataly, from San Ysidro High School in San Diego had submitted one version of her speech to the administration which was approved prior to the ceremony. But then during the actual event, about halfway through, after she finished highlighting positive aspects of her high school experience, Nataly’s tone took a sharp turn as she gave sarcastic thank-you messages to people such as her counselor for “letting me fend for myself” and being “always unavailable to my parents and I.” She even thanked one teacher for alleged improper behavior that served as an example to warn students about “the dangers of alcoholism.” (She claimed the teacher showed up drunk to class on multiple occasions.)

A video of part of the speech has gone viral and officials of her school district are less than pleased with her unexpected venting at the graduation ceremony. One official said the speech took away from the accomplishments of the students and staff and that Nataly should not have made the event all about herself.

Nataly’s parents say they are proud of her for speaking out. Her mother is quoted as saying, “I was proud that she spoke up and got it out. It is something that takes a lot of courage to do.”

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above to read. After all teens have had the opportunity to read the article, discuss it in this way:

What do you think about the valedictorian’s speech?

What do you think motivated the student to say the things she did when she did?

Why might using a speech in that way be seen as arrogant or otherwise wrong?

Arrogance is an ugly trait; it can cause a great deal of damage in relationships and to reputations. Humility can heal relationships. Let’s take a look at biblical characteristics of a humble person.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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