

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Healing Hating Hearts” the High School Sunday school lesson for June 24, 2018. The lesson is found on page 23 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



# the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

A lot of angry words were flying on social media networks this week. As the media representation of families being separated at the US border amped up, so did emotions. Some called for a return to law and order—the strengthening of the country’s borders. Some pleaded for the sanctity of the family unit—children should not be taken from their parents, they said. Photos of children and parents crying were tweeted and retweeted and retweeted yet again. Other reports of immigrant crime were also spread. Millions and millions of dollars were raised to help those seeking asylum. Millions and millions of minutes were no doubt wasted by many of us watching from afar. Talking heads argued with one another on our screens, exchanging fiery words at times. Some TV hosts were led to tears. And in all the stir of emotion and anger, it was often hard to discern fact from opinion, and to look behind images to the truth of the story. Sometimes it helps to take a step back, to breathe, and to remember that not everything is as it seems. But we also must not let that truth draw us into complacency. We may not know everything. But we know enough to do something. Something good.

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

**What do you think about the way the stories about the separation of families at the US border have been presented this week?**

**Is it a problem for emotion to be included in news stories? When does it become a problem?**

**Have you ever been involved in a situation—an argument, a controversy, a failed event, etc.—which was made worse by the feelings of people involved in the situation? How were things made worse? What could have helped?**

**Sometimes it helps to take a step back from our own stories, our own emotions, our own experiences, and examine what’s happening from a different viewpoint. It’s so easy for anger and hatred to take over. As citizens of God’s kingdom, it’s important for us to keep His perspective, His commands, and His heart in mind. Let’s examine what Jesus said about how His followers should react to strong feelings, such as hatred.**