

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Faith Beyond Borders” the High School Sunday school lesson for June 25, 2017. The lesson is found on page 23 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



It's not at all surprising that people are intrigued by and sometimes get fixated on the idea of seeing Jesus—an actual physical representation—in our world today. Even if they don't have an active faith in God, Jesus is such a radical, wise, and powerful figure that it's understandable that people want to be close to Him and experience Him in some tangible way.

A brief perusal of the Internet finds many sightings of Jesus and His mother Mary in all kinds of places. I found it especially interesting to discover the number and various kinds of foods in which Jesus has made an appearance. Some version of Jesus' face or body has been seen in ice cream, on an apple, grilled onto a grilled cheese sandwich, in a Funyun, in a bag of Cheetos, on a fish stick, in a pierogi, and on a pizza, among many other food items. From the looks of this list, it seems that Jesus could appear literally anywhere, and isn't too worried about being seen as health-conscious.

People in Jesus' own time on earth wanted to be close to Him as well. They had various reasons for doing so. Some had heard His teaching and heard in it a note of authority and understanding that they had not heard before from other teachers. Some had learned of His miracles, and they hoped He might perform a miracle in their lives. But there no doubt were many, and Scripture indicates this, that were trying to figure out who He was. Even His own disciples sometimes wondered what He was doing and why. So they kept close, listening, watching, and following Him—wanting to see if He was real. Would He do everything He says He will do? Is He the Messiah? Can we trust Him?

And many of us are still asking those questions today, and still trying to listen and watch and find Him here, walking with us. Or showing up in our snacks.

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

Why do you think so many people still claim to see Jesus in the world today? Do you believe any of these visions could be real?

How do you get to know someone? What do you think is the best way to learn who a person is?

How do you get to know Jesus? What do you do to learn more about Him?

Living a life of faith, a life devoted to following Jesus, can be very difficult. Sometimes it seems like it would be a lot easier if He could just be here with us, but even the disciples didn't always understand why Jesus did what He did. During the final year of His ministry, Jesus took a trip outside of Israel to give His disciples an unlikely illustration of faith. Let's examine it today.