

Use “The Scene” to introduce “By Works or Faith?” the High School Sunday school lesson for August 12, 2018. The lesson is found on page 67 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

It’s that time of year again. The nerves. The dread. The fear of new things, new people, new schedules. And that’s just for the teachers.

Yes, it’s back-to-school time. Some kids have already started, some are still counting down their remaining hours of summer, and some are getting excited about what this new year brings. And their parents? Well, they may be in the same boat emotionally, but they have the added stress of the hundreds of dollars that are generally spent at the beginning of the new school year. Books, bags, new clothes, shoes, pencils, erasers—it all adds up quickly! One report from 2017 suggested that parents of high school students could expect to pay \$1,489 on average at this time of year, though many admitted they planned to spend a lot more.

I guess they could look on the bright side. I mean, it could be a lot worse. They could be getting that first college tuition bill.

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

What do you feel at the beginning of a new school year? How do you handle it?

Have you ever wondered how your parents figure out how to plan their budgets to handle all these expenses? What do you think they do?

What plans do you make to schedule your time and resources for the year?

Obviously, parents generally do take care of their kids and pay for school expenses without the students having to earn their own way. But sometimes we act like children of God have to earn God’s approval. Let’s take a look at how the Bible clearly contrasts salvation by faith and salvation by works.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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