

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Seeing the Big Picture” the High School Sunday school lesson for September 3, 2017. The lesson is found on page 5 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



I'm sure she had no idea it would cause such a stir. I mean, it would have been as normal as eating breakfast in the morning, or getting in the shower, or putting on makeup. Certainly, she didn't mean for it to take over the news or distract people from more important issues. It was just a choice. A simple decision about footwear.

Those stilettos though.

Faster than you can figure out how to spell Manolo Blahnik, the pictures of the First Lady striding confidently through some street near Houston, Texas on the presidential visit of the Hurricane Harvey-harassed area went viral. Her fabulous footwear were quickly dubbed “storm stilettos,” and people took sides on whether they were simply an innocent fashion error that would have been a normal choice for a former model or whether they were a symbol of an out-of-touch and self-centered administration that doesn't understand how “normal” people live.

Who knew shoes could matter so much?

But perhaps we need things like this sometimes. Perhaps we need to focus on a small thing that we can wrap our heads around, when something huge like dealing with the devastation of a natural disaster and all the suffering and death and hardship that comes from it seems impossible to figure out. Or perhaps we are just guilty too of being self-centered and out-of-touch—that we care more about talking about some lady's shoes than about talking about big-picture issues that really matter.

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

Did you see any of the stories or pictures about Melania Trump's shoes that she wore to Texas? What thoughts did you have?

Is it important for public officials to be aware of their image? Why or why not? Is it more important for the official's own success, or it is also important for us, the viewing public? Explain.

Why do you think do we sometimes get blinded by small issues instead of pushing for action on much bigger-picture issues?

We often make mistakes in life when we are unable to see the big picture. When some of Jesus' followers missed the point of His ministry, Jesus taught them three ways that people of faith should look at life.