

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Lessons in Leadership” the High School Sunday school lesson for October 29, 2017. The lesson is found on page 57 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



Even as President Trump continues to wage Twitter battles with various persons, Congress has been moving to take back some powers from the executive branch with regard to matters of national security. Actions started early in his presidency. As reported in a CNN online article from July of this year: “I think it’s sinking in, especially with Republican members of Congress, that they are not getting the kind of adult leadership out of the White House that would allow you to give deference to the White House,” said Mieke Eoyang, a national security analyst at Third Way and former congressional aide. “So you see Congress stepping up to take a much more aggressive role on national security for the first time in a very long time.”

Certainly, being a good leader of a nation requires being able to deal with conflict in ways that promote confidence and stability, and the president has had plenty of opportunities in the last nine months to display his behavior in times of personal, political, and national conflict—particularly in his handling of the relations with North Korea and that country’s leader, Kim Jong Un.

Imagine you are a member of Congress right now. How would you assess the executive branch’s ability to deal with conflict? What would you do regarding the president’s ability to make key military decisions?

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

What do you think you can learn about people from the way they handle personal conflict? Do you think that has any relationship to the way they might handle conflict in business matters—or can people separate the two? Explain.

What kinds of qualities do you look for in a leader? What makes a good leader?

Have you ever been in a situation where you had a conflict with a person in a leadership role? What did you do? How did you handle it? How did that leader handle it?

We may not agree on the perfect definition of a good leader, but we all know what kind of leaders we like to serve under. Today we’re going to consider the story of Deborah, a judge of ancient Israel, and look for qualities of good leadership.