

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Building His Kingdom” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for January 27, 2019. The lesson is found on page 57 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

The teens at Covington Catholic High School have undoubtedly been learning lots of things in school: biology, algebra, physics, and history. But this past several days they’ve also been having lessons in social media, public relations, civil rights, forgiveness, and justice. But these lessons have been learned on the fly, in the public eye, and under enormous pressure. Not the best environment for training.

One wonders if any new classes will be developed out of this experience that erupted due to the emergence of several viral video clips showing various versions of what could be described as a tense interaction between the teens (on a school-sponsored trip to show their support for the pro-life, anti-abortion movement) and other protesting groups and in particular, an older Native American man. Certainly, there are many teachable moments that can come out of such an experience.

But every person who claims to follow Christ should be actively enrolled and engaged in their own education of what it means to be a disciple of Christ—of what it means to learn from Jesus, to follow Jesus, and to strive to behave like Jesus. And every person who claims Christ as their Savior should be learning also what it means to look like Jesus—whether that is in the public eye on a video shared on Twitter, or behind closed doors when no one else is watching.

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

Have you seen any of the videos or heard about the interaction mentioned in this article? If so, what were your thoughts about the interaction between the high school group and the other groups and people involved?

What kind of judgments about people’s motivations or values can you make based on video clips you see in the news or online? What is the best way to gather information if you want to know more about an event such as this one?

How prepared do you feel to live as a Jesus follower out in the world? How can you learn more?

To perform anything well, a person needs adequate preparation and training. One of the most important tasks in the world is the one given to all believers by Jesus. Let’s look at how He called disciples who would perform this task.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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