

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Did Jesus Really Die?” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for April 2, 2017. The lesson is found on page 31 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



“Fake news” has become a popular term these days, hasn’t it? It’s used to cover everything from intentionally fabricated stories about government conspiracies and the like to basically any story that falls under the “we don’t really like this story so we don’t want to comment on it” category. Identifying “fake news” has become such a thing that some elementary schools have begun running after-school workshops that teach kids how to find authentic sources for news stories. No kidding—that’s not fake news.

Of course, one of the best ways to fight so-called fake news is the best way to fight against any lies—focus on the truth. Focus on stories by experienced journalists who care about their integrity. Focus on stories from trusted news outlets that would be severely penalized if they printed wrong information, especially about famous persons (“lawsuit” is also still a popular term these days, you know). Focus on the truth.

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

What’s a “fake news” story that you’ve heard recently?

If you want to test the truth of a story, what do you do?

Have you ever tried to test the truth of a biblical story? If so, how did you go about it?

We are continually sorting through what people tell us, deciding what is trustworthy and what is doubtful. That includes questions about our faith. Today we will look at evidence proving that Jesus’ death was an actual historical event.