

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Is Jesus Really Lord?” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for April 16, 2017. The lesson is found on page 43 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



The video of the April 9 event went viral in minutes. It showed United Airlines passenger David Dao being dragged down the aisle of the plane, forcibly removed from his paid seat by the city of Chicago’s aviation security officers, due to overbooking of the flight. Within hours, the rampant sarcasm on the Internet produced new slogans for the company such as “Don’t Fly the Unfriendly Skies,” and the incident became a trending topic.

Since then, three security employees have been placed on leave, United’s CEO Oscar Munoz has made a few public apologies, and Dao has secured the services of a high-powered lawyer. Plus, all the passengers on that flight, many of whom were very disturbed by the scene and can be heard vocally protesting on the video, were refunded the value of their tickets.

As can be expected, many people were troubled by the event, though some have tried to defend the actions, saying that the pilot had the authority to eject the man from his seat if he was being uncooperative. The video and the subsequent articles about the situation have brought up the same questions over and over again: Who was in the right? Who had the authority to remove the man from his seat? What does it mean when you have paid for a ticket on a plane? What authority does that give you?

One thing is certain. United will be evaluating its policies—Munoz has promised that nothing like this will ever happen again. But it could well be that Dao will get the last word once the case comes to trial—or gets settled out of court.

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

What do you think about this story? If you saw the video, what were your thoughts when you saw it? (you can easily find the short video online at various news outlets)

What kind of authority should police have when it comes to dealing with passengers on flights? What reasons can you think of that might make it necessary for police to have more authority on airplanes than in other situations?

You may have heard about other stories where paying passengers were booted off a plane due to their behavior. What do you think about that? What kind of authority should flight attendants have when it comes to dealing with misbehaving passengers? How would you determine the limits of their authority? What authority do you think you should be given when you pay for a ticket?

There are lots of different kinds of authority figures that we meet out in the world: teachers, police officers, ministers, etc. God says that Jesus should have authority over our lives. Let’s see what the Bible has to say about this.