

Use “The Scene” to introduce “The Responsibilities of Parents” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for April 30, 2017. The lesson is found on page 57 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



To be a parent in the digital age can be a dangerous and/or lucrative thing. Reprimand a child in public and you might get caught in a viral video. Record a kid doing normal, cute kid things and you might get five million views on YouTube and offers from advertisers.

If I were to hand out awards for best online parent stories ever, I think I’d have to name my top five as the father who builds epic Halloween costume/vehicle creations for his son in a wheelchair, the dad (Rick van Beek) who runs triathlons with his daughter who has cerebral palsy and can’t walk or talk, the parent (whoever you are) who came up with the Get-Along Shirt, the Chinese millionaire (Yu Youzhen) who took a job as a street sweeper to set a good example for her kids, and basically every single mom or dad out there in the world who is doing it all on her or his own, because, come on, you know it’s a tough job!

Actually, now that I think of it, maybe the ones who really need the awards are those parents who just do their jobs in a routine, everyday, unseen way—doing their best to raise kids who are healthy, relatively happy, and given a solid foundation on which they can build good character.

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

Who would you give a “Best Parent Ever” award to and why?

Have your parents ever done something that you wish you had recorded so you could post it online? What was it?

Have your parents ever come up with unique ways to teach you a lesson or distribute discipline? What did you learn from that experience?

No parent is perfect, but God has given every parent the responsibility to pass along His guidance and love to the next generation. Let’s look more closely at what God expects from parents.