

Use “The Scene” to introduce “The Causes of Conflict” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for May 14, 2017. The lesson is found on page 69 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



In a brief but welcome break from the U.S. political intrigue, the eyes of the world turned to the presidential election in France this past week. The two candidates who emerged in the final run-off for the post were the young centrist Emmanuel Macron and the far-right leader Marine Le Pen.

Hours before French citizens went to the polls to determine their nation’s new head, Marine Le Pen’s father, Jean-Marie Le Pen spoke to the media, indicating that his daughter was unfit to lead the country.

Wow. I guess he’s not getting Father of the Year award this year.

But the rift between Ms. Le Pen and her father was not news to anyone who has been paying attention to this story recently. Marine Le Pen had kicked her father out of the party that he himself led for 40 years. Three years ago, her father publicly dismissed the Holocaust as a minor detail of World War II. Her father’s too-radical beliefs and willingness to comment about them had become a problem for the party, and his daughter decided something had to be done to keep the party on track and able to be seen as a serious contender for government leadership.

The two have not spoken since. But it appears her father has not lost his sharp tongue. And no doubt his words did nothing to help heal the relationship, especially after Marine Le Pen’s defeat in the election.

Don’t expect a Father’s Day gift this year, Jean-Marie.

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?

Do the personal relationships of a presidential candidate matter much? What do you think the relationships within someone’s family say about what kind of leader they might be?

Can family conflict ever produce good results? Give reasons for your answer.

Since the beginning of time, people have had conflict in family situations. Today we’re going to look at a dysfunctional family in Genesis and figure out what types of things cause family conflict.