

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Trusting God When I Feel Rejected” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for May 27, 2018. The lesson is found on page 81 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Another week and another school shooting. More scenes of terrified faces and sobbing parents. More shots of first responders rushing to and fro. More calls for solutions and greater safety measures. More impassioned responses. More wondering why.

In the latest case, a spurned romantic interest seems to have been part of the equation. In any other normal situation, we might hear about a boy liking a girl, getting up the courage to tell her, and then being rejected and simply feel sorry for the guy. We all know it takes a lot of guts to go up to someone you care about and tell them what you feel. And it can be embarrassing, painful, and terribly awkward to have your feelings then be turned away, or worse yet, used to ridicule you.

But what happened in this situation is beyond any experience most of us could ever fathom. What would make a person go from rejection to such a state of aggression that they felt it was all right to take human lives? It’s not something that is easy to understand. And it’s something we don’t even *want* to have to understand.

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

Have you ever told someone you liked them? What happened? If you haven’t ever done that, what made you hold back?

Have you ever been on the other side and rejected someone else? What happened?

What do you think about this story of the latest school shooting? What thoughts do you have about the idea that the young man who used the weapon against his schoolmates took revenge on those who had rejected him?

Anger, frustration, and despair often result when a person feels rejected. Like all of us, Samuel, the last judge of Israel, also experienced rejection. Let’s see how he kept rejection from making him a bitter person.