

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Heavenly Help” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for June 4, 2017. The lesson is found on page 5 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



June 6th will mark the 73rd anniversary of the D-Day invasion, when Allied troops from the United States, Canada, and Britain arrived on the beaches of Normandy in a massive effort to liberate German-occupied northwestern Europe. It is still considered the largest seaborne invasion in history, and was accompanied by an airborne assault—with 24,000 troops landing after midnight, not long before the amphibious landings began.

The effort required months of preparation, planning, and cooperation among the leaders of nations as details about the tide, weather, the areas of attack, the devices to be used, and the strategy of the battle were worked out. In the end, the Allies committed over a million troops to the Battle of Normandy, and casualties numbered at least 10,000—4,414 men were confirmed dead.

A few years ago, artists from a group called Sand In Your Eye developed a public art exhibit to mark Peace Day (observed on September 21 each year) and help people remember and reflect on what can happen where peace cannot be achieved. Using stencils, artists Jamie Wardley and Andy Moss and hundreds of volunteers from all kinds of backgrounds and nationalities etched the forms of 9,000 fallen people into the sand, representing the estimated number of total civilians and German and Allied forces who died during the invasion on June 6th. You can read more about the Fallen Project and see pictures at thefallen9000.info.

It took much cooperation and trust for the Allied forces to work together to defeat Hitler's hold on Europe. It will take much more cooperation and trust and people willing to remember these days in order to bring any kind of peace to our world.

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

What do you know about the D-Day invasion? Did you have any relatives involved in World War II?

There were many factors that led to the beginning of WWII and to Germany's occupation of Europe. How much do you think cultural and economic divisions played a role in this war? What were some of the main ideas Hitler had that drove him to want to take over the world?

How have cultural, social, generational, economic or other differences played a role in conflicts you've experienced on a personal level? Have you ever had to cooperate with people in different social groups in order to get help to achieve some goal? How did that work out?

The Allied forces came from different countries but they reached out for help from each other in order to achieve a common goal. Sometimes it can be difficult to ask for help when we need it. Today we'll learn about an important man who took some risks to reach out to the only person who could help him with his need.