

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Honor God’s Name” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for June 17, 2018. The lesson is found on page 17 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



the **SCENE**

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

It seems like it’s hard to define words these days. Even the dictionary has been thrown out as an expert in favor of personal interpretation. The latest instance of this came as I listened to the reports about the summit between President Donald Trump and the leader of the North Korean people. *Denuclearization* was heard a lot in the news, but people debated over what each leader meant by that high-scoring Scrabble word (and if you’ve ever managed to use that word on a Scrabble board, you should tell me, because that in itself is pretty impressive). Some reports said it meant the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the means to make them again. Some reports said it just meant the removal of the weapons. Some people suggested it might just mean the disabling of the weapons without taking them out of the country. Certainly, the reports from the two leaders themselves were not much help in targeting a particular definition. While President Trump tweeted out that it meant no more nuclear scare from North Korea at all, the North Korean leader’s reports to his people were pretty quiet on the subject.

Seems like it’s a pretty important word to get right. What do you think?

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

What do you think about the idea that people prefer their own interpretations of words instead of referring to a dictionary? Do you think that’s true? When is it most true?

Why are people motivated to tweak the definitions of words?

What can be a problematic consequence that arises if two people have different definitions for the same term?

Words can be pretty important to us. If you’ve ever had someone get your name wrong, for instance, you may have been annoyed or even felt disrespected. It’s important to be precise about words that are bear special significance to people or that could even be dangerous if misused. So, if you think getting names right for people is important, just imagine how important it is to use God’s name in appropriate and respectful ways! Let’s see what the Bible teaches about misusing the particular words that are the names of God.