

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Learning About Our World” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for July 9, 2017. The lesson is found on page 37 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



President Trump meeting with President Putin. Tesla building the world’s biggest battery. North Korea firing ballistic missiles. Gang-fighting in Mexico. The Syrian Civil War. Developments in the next Star Wars movie. Sears closing stores across America. Wimbledon results. The latest Kardashian drama.

Depending on who you are, where you live, and what your interests are, you may have heard about any or none of these stories this week. We get such a flood of information coming our way these days via TV, email, Facebook, Twitter, and other outlets, it’s hard to filter out what’s important to pay attention to and what isn’t. How do you decide? And does it matter?

Romans 12:2 tells us to not be conformed “to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (NIV). So what have you been doing to renew your mind this week?

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

**What are the top 3 news stories you’ve heard this week that stand out to you? Why do those stand out?**

**What are some stories (about sports, celebrities, music, politics, etc.) that you follow regularly to see what is going on or what developments have happened? Why do you follow those stories?**

**Do you think it’s important for Christians to know about what’s going on in popular culture? Why or why not? Are there areas of “news” that you consider more legitimate or beneficial than others? How do you make that distinction?**

**One of the best examples of a Christian who was also an informed citizen of this world was the apostle Paul. When he was in Athens, Paul’s understanding of his world benefited him in three ways. Let’s look at those three ways.**