

Use “The Scene” to introduce “What Do I Do Now?” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for August 19, 2018. The lesson is found on page 73 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

# the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Police officers in New Haven, Connecticut were overwhelmed this week by more than 70 people found in a park who were sickened by an apparent drug overdose. The mass overdose has been traced to synthetic marijuana, which was apparently laced with another drug, suspected to be fentanyl—a drug that has been the cause of more than half of all overdose deaths recently in America, according to a report by the American Medical Association. It is unclear, but it seems that most, if not all, of the victims were unaware that the marijuana they were taking had this dangerous substance in it.

Those who were found to be ill were given doses of naloxone—a still somewhat controversial practice—which acts as an antidote to the effects of overdoses. So far, no deaths have occurred from the incident. Several arrests have been made of those suspected of providing the drug.

Many people have complained about the use of naloxone for drug overdose victims in the past, saying that it serves as an “easy-out” for drug addicts and is just putting a Band-Aid on the widespread problem of drug use, instead of providing a real solution. However, proponents of the use of naloxone point to incidents such as this one, where many unsuspecting people could have died or been affected critically if naloxone had not been administered.

*As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above story to read. After all teens have had the opportunity to read the article, discuss it in this way:*

**What do you think about this story? Who do you think is to blame for the incident?**

**What do you think about the police using naloxone to reverse the effects of the overdoses?**

**Some of the people whose lives were saved by the police will undoubtedly be very grateful. But one wonders if that experience will change their attitude toward drug use. What can you learn from their experience?**

**How people react to different gifts they’ve been given depends on how much that gift means to the person. For some of these people, maybe the gift of life will make all the difference in the world, but others may not even care. Today we’ll think about the gift of life God has given us through salvation, and consider how we should respond to that gift.**



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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