

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Pardon Me?” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for August 26, 2018. The lesson is found on page 79 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

With all of the accusations and trials of government or political campaign officials in the news recently, many people have been talking about the existence of presidential pardons and how those are used. The authority to pardon people is granted to the president of the United States by the Constitution, in Article II, Section 2, Clause 1, which states that the president shall “have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.”

Though a pardon can set aside or minimize the punishment for a federal crime, it cannot of course erase all the consequences of a crime. People who have been hurt by a crime committed against them will still be hurt. Secrets that have been revealed will still be known. Reputations will remain damaged.

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 the power of the presidential pardon? Is it a good idea or a bad idea? Why?

Have you ever been given a pardon—have you ever done something that deserved punishment, but then had the punishment taken away? What happened?

Have you ever had the ability to let someone “off the hook”? What did you do and how did that person respond?

Often after we’ve done something wrong, we’d like to be able to be forgiven completely—to have our guilt erased and start new. The Bible tells us that this type of pardon is available to us. Let’s talk about what such a gift should motivate us to do.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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