

Use “The Scene” to introduce “A Sinful Woman” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for October 7, 2018. The lesson is found on page 37 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

The discussion of the Supreme Court Justice nomination has continued to fill the news this week, and by the time you are at your services this Sunday, a vote will have been completed about his nomination in the Senate.

In the time since allegations first were raised against the nominee (Kavanaugh), we’ve heard many arguments for and against. We’ve heard about other rumored allegations, but none with hard evidence. We’ve heard about protestors speaking out and confronting Senators. We’ve seen visible demonstrations in support of either side in cities across America, and even across the world. And each side seems to scream louder and louder that their side is right, their side holds the truth, their side deserves to be heard.

In the midst of all this, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to two people. Nadia Murad, a Yazidi woman who was held captive by members of the Islamic State and subjected to sexual assault, was awarded the prize for her work as an activist voice for women who are victims of sexual violence. Also, Dr. Denis Mukwege, a gynecological surgeon who has, like Ms. Murad, risked his own assassination for his work in treating thousands of women who have suffered sexual and other physical abuse at the hands of men warring in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

As Dr. Mukwege is quoted as saying: “It’s not a women question; it’s a humanity question, and men have to take responsibility to end it.”

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:

Why do you think the Nobel Peace Prize winners were awarded the prize? What does their work have to do with creating peace?

Why is it important to listen to the stories of victims of violence? Is it also important to listen to the stories of those who have been accused? Explain.

It’s easy to compare ourselves with people who have done terrible things and feel self-righteous about our own positions. What is the problem with being self-righteous? How does that feeling work against peace?

Sometimes we hear about the stories of people engaging in bad behavior and we can come away feeling proud of our own good behavior. That can lead to a self-righteous attitude, and can block us from feeling compassion, among other things. Let’s look at how Jesus reacted to sinners and think about our attitudes, and whether or not we are following His example.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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