

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Authority: Why Have It?” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for November 12, 2017. The lesson is found on page 71 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



A televised social experiment involving kids has been resurfacing lately on the Web, probably due to the tenth anniversary of the experiment coming up soon. The experiment, called Boys Alone/Girls Alone was performed separately on boys and girls and was produced by a British television production company. The idea was to leave ten middle-school-age kids in a house by themselves for a period of time from five days to two weeks. They had access to medical care and could leave if they wanted. Their parents watched the experiment unfold via CCTV cameras. The kids were given a stocked kitchen, games and other entertainment to amuse themselves, but there were no adults, and no rules other than the ones they made for themselves.

Predictably perhaps, both groups ate lots of candy and very quickly decided to redecorate the house in their own style. Also predictably, some of the girls started cooking and making cakes right off the bat, while some of the boys began trashing their house just as quickly.

Though it was certainly interesting to see how they formed their societies and how different personalities presented themselves, and how authority was re-established, in some ways, many people were critical at the thought of making these children endure somewhat stressful situations and act out interpersonal drama on camera for the world to see. Some children and parents have spoken out about the program, saying they regret participating and still have emotional scars years afterward.

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

What do you think about the experiment described in the article? Would you want to participate in something like that? Why or why not?

What would you predict would happen if a bunch of your friends were left without adult authority figures in their lives for a period of time?

When a teacher leaves the room for a short time—what have you seen happen in the classroom? Why do you think people react the way they do in the absence of authority? What kind of people try to re-establish law and order?

We can all think of times when we’ve been more sneaky when no authority was around. Today we’ll discuss three reasons why God created authority in the first place.