

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Authority: Why Respect It?” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for November 19, 2017. The lesson is found on page 77 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



You’ve seen the selfies. A person climbing a wall beside a sign that clearly states “No Climbing.” Or a guy lying on a lawn in front of the “Keep Off Grass” sign. Or someone touching an exhibit with the posted warning: “Do Not Touch.”

Some people are rule-breakers by nature, it seems. Or maybe they just like to create funny photo moments. But most of us have broken a rule at some time or another. Sometimes the rule-breaking is accidental: “No officer, I didn’t see the new posted speed limit.” And sometimes it’s intentional, but perhaps not meant to do harm: “Yes, I know the sign says ‘no sitting,’ but I felt dizzy and had to sit somewhere!”

If given the chance, we can all probably come up with as many valid reasons for breaking such rules as there are rules that exist. But in most cases, there are good reasons to follow the posted signs—even if you miss out on a great Instagram image.

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

**Have you ever taken a picture similar to the ones described above? Tell your story.**

**What do you think makes us want to disobey posted signs? Or, if you are a committed rule-follower, what makes you want to obey posted signs? What are the motivations for each kind of person?**

**Have you ever disobeyed a sign and then received some kind of punishment or other negative consequences? What happened? Did what happened to you have an effect on your attitude about following or breaking rules? Explain.**

**We’ve all rebelled against authority in some way or another. Sometimes rebelling just comes more naturally than giving respect. Today we’ll look at three biblical reasons to respect authority.**