

Use The Scene to introduce “The Challenge of Wicca,” the High School Sunday school lesson for October 19, 2014. The lesson is found on page 43 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

During this time of year, “leaf peeping” is a popular tourist activity. Every year, experts give their choices for the best places to view nature’s fall wardrobes.

Taos, New Mexico—This city and the nearby Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway have earned positions among leaf peepers and national media on lists of the top locations in the United States to see an impressive fall landscape dotted with a palette of warm red, orange, and gold foliage.

This fall, Taos and the Enchanted Circle have topped several “best fall trip” lists in the country, including in: *Huffington Post* (“10 Best Fall Foliage Trips in the U.S.”), *National Geographic* (“10 Best Fall Trips in World”), *Los Angeles Times* (“New Mexico’s Enchanted Byway Brings Fall Foliage Viewing Full Circle”), and *USA Today* (“10 Best: Places to See Fall Colors”), to name a few.

Oakland, Maryland—CNN gave this town near the source of the Potomac River top honors as the best town in America for leaf peeping. They cited the blazing colors found just nine miles north of town at Swallow Falls State Park as a must-see for foliage fans. The oldest stands of eastern hemlock and white pine—more than 360 years old—blanket the area in gold, orange, and red at this time of year.

Last week this town of 2,000 welcomed about 50,000 visitors for their 45th annual Autumn Glory Festival. The festivities included two parades, concerts, band competitions, and a hayride along the lakefront that passes scenes of zombies and ghosts.

Ashland, Oregon—Travel site TripAdvisor issued its TripIndex Fall Foliage to tell leaf peepers where they can enjoy the season most affordably. The index is a comparison of the combined average cost of a two-night weekend stay in a bed & breakfast, a full tank of gas, apple picking, and a meal at a restaurant.

TripAdvisor looked at 15 communities around the U.S. and concluded that the most affordable foliage getaway was this town in the Northwest. In Ashland, the excursion would cost \$391.15. The most expensive was Lenox, Massachusetts, at \$684.75. The average cost of the trip in the 15 communities surveyed was \$502.

Photographer Michael Clemmer, whose images have appeared in National Geographic Society publications and calendars around the world, says, “Autumn leaves are nature’s stained glass.” No matter where tourists go to view the fall color show, the advice of Clemmer seems sound—“Don’t let taking photos keep you from enjoying the scenery.”

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

Why do you think people travel to see fall leaves? Is that something you have done or would enjoy? Why or why not?

What are some of your favorite things you’ve seen in nature? What natural wonders would you like to see someday? How does being out in nature make you feel?

The natural world is awesome and beautiful. While we recognize this, we know that nature is not perfect and is not to be worshipped. The Bible also tells us several things about nature: God is separate from the universe He made, human beings are God’s unique natural creation, and nature is dying because of sin and its effects.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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