

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Everlasting Father,” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for December 21, 2014. The lesson is found on page 17 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

“I wasn’t there for Scooter. I was a terrible father. I missed a lot. I was on drugs. I was addicted to drugs. He parented himself.”

This is what Cedric Theodis Hobbs Sr. said when called to testify in court on behalf of his son, Cedric Theodis Hobbs Jr. (also known as Scooter). Cedric Jr. has been charged with first-degree murder and armed robbery after breaking into a pawn shop and shooting a 19-year-old young man. Cedric was on drugs at the time of the crime, apparently following in the footsteps of his father.

“Out of control,” Cedric Sr. said, describing his own addiction to cocaine and crack. “Cocaine about destroyed my life.” Other family members testified that Cedric Jr. was abandoned by his abusive mother at the age of two and spent his childhood being shuffled around from relative to relative. His father was absent due to his drug use.

Through junior high school, Scooter did well in school. By high school, his grades had dropped. He started abusing drugs and became involved with street gangs in Washington, D.C. He later served time for armed robbery. He was diagnosed as bipolar and even talked openly about committing suicide.

Cedric Sr. admitted that his son sometimes asked why his father gave him away. He simply told Scooter, “I made a boo-boo.”

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:

Even though every person is responsible for his or her own actions, do you think Cedric Jr.’s family life impacted his choices?

Do you think his life might have been different if his father had been different? How?

Why are fathers important in our lives?

Fathers can be great, yet they can also make mistakes and disappoint us, just as all people do. But Jesus came to earth to represent the ultimate father—our Everlasting Father. Today we’ll look at three characteristics of this dad who never fails.