

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Prince of Peace,” the High School Sunday school lesson for December 28, 2014. The lesson is found on page 23 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14)—the message of the angels that first Christmas night. Peace on earth. Sounds wonderful, but could that ever really happen? Check out the news headlines at any given time, and it looks doubtful. Terrorism, murder, riots, child abuse, school shootings, racism . . . it’s anything but peaceful. Yet peace is something our hearts long for, something we all desire. But how do we go about getting it?

Kelsey Cavanagh of Hollywood, Florida, has one approach. In an effort to bring together a divided community, this 25-year-old yoga instructor is holding a free “People & Police for Peace” meditation rally on January 7. At 6:00 p.m., Ms. Cavanagh is hopeful that police officers and community members from Hollywood, Fort Lauderdale, and Miami will gather together for guided meditation as a step toward unity. “We want to work with people on a heart level and create a forum for mindfulness and conversation.”

Seventeen-year-old Malala Yousafzai takes a more vocal approach. In October 2012, Malala was shot and nearly killed by Taliban soldiers in her home country of Pakistan. Why? For insisting that girls had a right to an education. Since then, she has been speaking out on this and many issues and has recently become the youngest person ever to be honored with the Nobel Peace Prize. In her acceptance speech, she asked leaders from across the world, “Why is it that giving guns is so easy, but giving books is so hard? Why is it that making tanks is so easy, but building schools is so hard?”

Nearly two years after a school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary, the locals in Easton, Connecticut, recently staged a peace rally. “No more violence” was their cry and “This Little Light of Mine” was their song as dozens of people stood together around Easton’s peace candle memorial. The memorial honors the 20 first-grade children and 6 of their teachers who were murdered in the Sandy Hook attack. Linda Kozic, a victim of violence herself, summed up the rally this way: “They want to remember. And by remembering, we can make a change because we don’t want it to happen again.”

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:

Each of these people is seeking peace in a different way. Which do you think is the most effective? Why?

What other ways do people look for peace—both in the world and in their own hearts?

Why do you think we want and need peace in our lives?

Peace means different things to different people, and there are lots of ways to go about getting it. Today we’ll look at three different ways that Jesus brings peace to our lives. We’ll find out why the Bible calls Him the Prince of Peace.