

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Faithfulness,” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for February 1, 2015. The lesson is found on page 57 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

“My body is shutting down and there’s nothing I can do.” These are the words no teenager should ever have to speak, no parent should ever have to bear, and no friend should ever have to endure. And yet these are the words of 19-year-old Lauren Hill, an inspiring young lady from Indiana who is battling DIPG—an inoperable, incurable form of brain cancer.

Lauren was diagnosed 14 months ago, before she ever had a chance to realize her dream of playing college basketball. She wasn’t expected to live long enough to see the season begin. When that news reached her Mount St. Joseph team, their opening game changed venues and was moved up by two months so that Lauren would be able to play. And play she did! In front of a sell-out crowd of 10,000 supporters, Lauren scored the first basket—and won hearts across the nation.

Layup 4 Lauren was born, and people across the country have raised awareness and money through this simple, but powerful fundraiser. Since then, over \$1 million has been raised on Lauren’s behalf for DIPG research. She’s been honored by Congress and was named runner-up as the Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year. But those aren’t Lauren’s biggest accomplishments.

“My legacy? That I started something nobody else has been able to start. Nothing has come out of 30 years [of research for DIPG]. Hopefully all this fundraising stuff will get research going. They won’t have to say that nothing has happened in 35 years. Because Lauren Hill raised money, we’re learning more.”

Most days Lauren isn’t able to play the sport she so passionately loves. But she has remained on the basketball team as an honorary coach and is determined to remain a voice for those affected by DIPG.

“Last January, I said to God [that] I’ll do anything to be a voice for this cancer and all the kids who can’t speak their symptoms. I prayed that I’d be the voice and that I’d do anything that gave me an opportunity to raise awareness and raise research money. I believe God has the last say. And I feel like I’ve accomplished what I intended.

“If I do pass, I don’t want people to say I lost. I want, ‘She kicked DIPG’s butt and raised a lot of money for research.’”

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:

What words would you use to describe Lauren Hill?

Why do you think she is able to stay so strong and not give up?

When are some situations when you’ve had to keep going, even when things were difficult?

We all sometimes feel as if it would be easier to just run away or quit. On those days, it’s good to have someone on our side to encourage and support us. Today we’ll look at the way Paul encouraged Timothy, and we’ll think about how we too can handle tough times in our lives.

To learn more about Lauren Hill, Layup 4 Lauren, and DIPG visit www.thecurestartsnow.org.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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