

Use The Scene to introduce “Self-Discipline,” the High School Sunday school lesson for February 8, 2015. The lesson is found on page 63 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Super Bowl Sunday is a big deal in America. Whether you were pulling for the Patriots or the Seahawks, whether you tuned in to check out the commercials or the half-time show, or whether you just wanted an excuse to stuff your face with pizza and wings, chances are you were one of the more than 100 million people who viewed the game last week. And regardless of what you thought of the game, you saw your share of wins and fails:

The Nationwide Insurance commercial about the boy who never grew up because he died? Epic FAIL. They're losing customers, rather than gaining them. Perhaps they should have stuck with Peyton Manning singing about chicken parm.

A cute little puppy being rescued from a wolf by a herd of Clydesdales? WIN! A cheesy win, but a win nonetheless.

The more than 1.25 BILLION chicken wings that Americans ate on Super Bowl Sunday? WIN . . . or FAIL! Delicious, either way you look at it.

Katy Perry's halftime show? Mixed reviews there, but the tiger she rode in on was a certain WIN!

The estimated 1.5 million people who missed work the following day? FAIL.

The Seahawks' decision to pass the ball instead of give it to Lynch? Well, people will be talking about *that* FAIL for decades.

It's interesting to think about the people who are responsible for these wins and fails. Some decisions affect only one person—like whether or not to eat yet another BBQ wing. Other decisions affect players, teams, fans, corporations, and coworkers. Ultimately, in the days and weeks (and even years) that follow Super Bowl 2015, people will be looking at the choices they made and the people they've affected. Hopefully, more often than not, those choices brought a WIN.

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 other Super Bowl WINS or FAILS would you add to this list?

What are some WINS or FAILS in your own life? If they were FAILS, what would you do differently, if given the chance?

How do you go about making important decisions?

We all WIN and we all FAIL sometimes. And whether your decisions affect only yourself or many other people, it's important to make choices wisely. Let's look at the instructions Paul gave to Timothy about using his life to be an example to others and find out what those instructions mean for us.