

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Who’s Center Stage?” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for December 1, 2019. The lesson is found on page 7 of *Young Teen Teacher* by 21st Century Christian.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

The family was celebrating their youngest child’s birthday one December afternoon, and as custom dictates, they lit candles showcasing the little boy’s age. In his excitement to blow out his candles, the child knocked over the cake at which point one of the lit candles quickly began to grow in intensity as it met the stack of napkins placed on the table.

Luckily someone noticed the flame and extinguished the fire before it could do any real damage. Yet at about that same time, many miles south of this scene, fires raged in a forest on a mountainside, threatening to destroy homes and businesses, and even lives. That fire too was once just a small flame, flickering in a breeze.

During the holidays, perhaps more than other times of the year, we all have our little worries. There is stress in the shopping and wrapping and picking and choosing and spending and saving. If we let these little worries take up too much of our air, if we let the fires eat up the oxygen, we’ll find it is rather hard to breathe. The trick is to not let those fires get out of control—to not let the worries cause real damage in our lives and the lives of anyone in our path. But we can’t fight this fire alone—we need someone looking out for us, someone with the power to extinguish far greater flames.

I can still see that birthday cake in my mind as it toppled over. Just like then, I’m praying God’s protection and comfort for all who are fighting fires—either the real ones or the ones just consuming our thoughts.

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:

Fill in this blank. The holiday season makes me feel _____. Explain your answer.

What do you think are the top three sources of stress for families during the holidays?

Do you ever feel like your worries are being fanned into a flame that is threatening to do damage in your life? What do you do when you feel like that?

December is a busy month for people and is sometimes full of pressures to please everyone and make things perfect. Joseph and Mary had their own pressures when Jesus was born. Let’s see what those pressures were, and how Mary and Joseph overcame those obstacles.

