

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” the High School Sunday school lesson for December 8, 2019. The lesson is found on page 11 of *High School Teacher* by 21st Century Christian.

# the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

A fairly popular mommy blogger this week came clean. Her blog had been followed and loved by fans. Then one day someone called her family “perfect.” And she realized that she couldn’t let people believe that anymore. She couldn’t let people see her beautiful home and adorable two kids and handsome husband and fun vacations and just let them think it was all real.

The truth is that her handsome husband is very sick, waiting for a heart transplant. Her two kids are adorable, but they also are both on the autistic spectrum, which makes parenting them challenging at times. The vacations are ways to take a break from the stress of every day. And to help her deal with depression.

Sometimes the images and stories we see online don’t tell the whole story. In fact, it’s safe to say, they never do.

*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:*

**Have you ever found out that the picture or story of someone you saw online did not match up to reality? What did you think?**

**During the holidays, a lot of families want to project a happy image, when that might not be entirely true the rest of the year. What do you think about that? Do you think it’s okay for people to try to be nice during the holidays, even though they might not feel nice at other times of year?**

**Have you ever felt like the story of Jesus’ birth is too good to be true? What is your favorite part of that story?**

**There are many kinds of messages in our world today. And many ways of communicating those messages. Some of those messages are more true than others. God sent a truly vital message through His angels. Let’s examine that message today.**

