

Use “The Scene” to introduce “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” the High School Sunday school lesson for December 15, 2019. The lesson is found on page 17 of *High School Teacher* by 21st Century Christian.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

The past week has seen TV and radio coverage being filled with impeachment news. We’ve all been inundated with clips of various members of Congress making impassioned points. Though the discussions have been spirited, the holiday spirit does seem to be lacking between the two political parties.

And in the stores, as prices get slashed and people scurry about to complete their shopping—searching for the best deal on Instant Pots and gravity blankets and Fitbits and AirPods and so on—the story of Jesus’ birth might get a little lost too. But it doesn’t have to. Even as we shop or as we hear news stories, we can keep searching for truth, for peace, for love, for joy, and for hope. We can remember why we give gifts at all at this time of year—to celebrate the best gift we ever received. And we can recall why Jesus came—to save us from the deception and greed and pride that brought about the fall of humankind.

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 searched hard for a particular gift during the holidays? What happened when you found it? Or if you didn’t find it, what did you do then?

The holidays often bring about a lot of feelings in people. What emotions do you have this time of year? How do those emotions affect your actions?

Things can get so busy, we might forget to stop and just celebrate and honor and worship Jesus. How do you or your family make time for Jesus during this season?

The holidays find people looking for many things, often material things. But many people are also seeking a savior—someone or something to give them purpose, hope, and a sense of personal value. The shepherds on that Bethlehem hillside many years ago were told about *the* Savior. The Bible tells us how they continued their search for Him.

