

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Did Jesus Really Die?” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for March 29, 2020. The lesson is found on page 31 of *Young Teen Teacher* by 21st Century Christian.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

In a time of international crisis such as we are all facing now, “fake news” and half-truths have become not just annoying and unhelpful, but even deadly. So far one person has died from using a chemical that was featured by the president in a press briefing—the person mistook an aquarium cleaner as being the same chemical mentioned as a possible treatment for COVID-19. Other people have become ill after believing that the whole story about the virus was just a hoax and so, attended a party to mock the concern about the situation. And an unknown number of people around the world may have contracted the virus or even died because they didn’t heed soon enough the warnings about the seriousness of the disease and its ability to spread quickly.

In times like these, when literal lives are on the line, it’s even more important to identify trusted and tested sources of information and to filter out stories that are filled with catchy headlines but don’t actually provide detailed facts.

Of course, one of the best ways to stay healthy and fight so-called fake news is the best way to fight against any lies—focus on the truth. Focus on stories by experienced journalists who care about their integrity. Focus on information from respected and experienced voices. Look into the research behind studies and assess what you read and hear with a critical eye and ear. Who’s making the claims? What’s being left out? What findings are proven? Focus on the truth.

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’s a “fake news” story that you’ve heard recently?

If you want to test the truth of a story, what do you do?

Have you ever tried to test the truth of a biblical story? If so, how did you go about it?

We are continually sorting through what people tell us, deciding what is trustworthy and what is doubtful. That includes questions about our faith. Today we will look at evidence proving that Jesus’ death was an actual historical event.

