

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead?” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for April 5, 2020. The lesson is found on page 37 of *Young Teen Teacher* by 21st Century Christian.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

In 1955, a writer in *Variety Magazine* said of rock-and-roll that it would be “gone by June.” In 1883, Lord Kelvin predicted that X-rays would be proven to be a hoax. Shortly after the Boeing company had completed work on a twin-engine plane that only held 10 passengers, one of the engineers said that there would “never be a bigger plane built.” In a rare moment of making a wrong conclusion, one famous scientist said in 1932, “There is not the slightest indication that nuclear energy will ever be obtainable.” Who was the scientist? Albert Einstein.

People make predictions based on all kinds of information—what research is available, data gathered from customers, studies about human psychology, and experimental results. But when trying to see into the future, what is available and understandable in the present is not always the best guide. If some people had trusted only the information available and not had faith, there might be no Xerox corporation, Ford Motor Company, televisions, or Mrs. Fields Cookies, and the Harry Potter series might never have become a publishing success.

With the current COVID-19 crisis, we’ve all become all-too-familiar with charts and graphs representing various predictive models of how the virus might continue to spread, rates of infection, and best ways to “flatten the curve.” Scientists are using not only the information we have available daily from our country’s situation, but the data recorded from other countries who have already dealt with the virus in past months. But all of the most trusted experts emphasize that it’s incredibly difficult to predict what this virus will do and how people will respond to it. The only thing they can tell us with some certainty is that washing our hands often and staying away from other people will help us to maintain our own health.

What will our future look like? Albert Einstein got his predictions wrong sometimes. How much do you trust your own?

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 tried to predict what would happen in a particular situation? What did you predict, and did it come true?

Have you ever trusted someone else’s prediction and then been disappointed when the prediction turned out to be wrong? What did you think about that? Did it change how you felt about that person?

Jesus told about what would happen after His death, but the disciples seemed not to understand what He said. Why do you think they didn’t believe Jesus’ prediction? Put yourself in their sandals—would you have believed that Jesus was really going to rise from the dead?

When people try predicting the future, they often get it wrong. Today we’re going to think about Jesus—who never got it wrong—and how He rose from the dead just like He promised.

