

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Is Jesus Really Lord?” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for April 12, 2020. The lesson is found on page 43 of *Young Teen Teacher* by 21st Century Christian.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

At this moment, just over 100,000 people around the world have had their lives taken from effects of the COVID-19 infection. More than one million cases have been confirmed. And many multiples of that amount reflect the numbers of people who have been affected—who have jobs that disappeared, income lost, loved ones gone, normal life disrupted, and anxiety, depression, panic, stress increased in untold measures.

It's nothing we've ever seen. Nothing we were prepared for. Nothing we can control.

And in a time like this, people are searching for someone who has the answers. Someone who has a solution. Someone in authority. Someone to tell us what to do.

Let us this week sit in these fears and worries together, as the disciples waited together, in a moment no one was ready for. In a moment no one understood. In a moment they could not keep from happening. In the grief of losing hold of everything we thought we had control over—all the schedules and programs and ways of communicating. Let us sit with the disciples as they sat, trying to make sense of a Messiah that could die.

And then let us rejoice together, even while we may be apart. Let us rejoice in a moment no one had ever seen. Let us rejoice in a moment no one was prepared for. Let us rejoice in what we cannot control—in the One we never can control, who defies all definitions and limitations and expectations. Let us rejoice in the great and glorious resurrection surprise of the Messiah who died and rose again as King. Let us look to Him for all the answers we need, every solution that makes sense, and let us submit to His authority.

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 are you feeling right now about the time that we are living in?

What do you think the followers of Jesus might have been going through when they realized Jesus had died? What about after He rose from the dead?

What authority figures have people been looking to for answers in this time right now?

There are lots of different kinds of authority figures that we meet out in the world—some are wiser than others, and some are more comforting than others. But there is only one Lord over all. Let's see what the Bible has to say about this.

