

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Is Jesus Really the Only Way to Heaven?” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for April 19, 2020. The lesson is found on page 49 of *Young Teen Teacher* by 21st Century Christian.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

For some time now, people have been able to become famous overnight for singing a song, playing a prank, or filming themselves after having dental surgery. Viral videos can bring literally millions of viewers right to someone’s virtual door.

Now, with the combination of so many people being stuck at home and with a strong need for light entertainment to help us cope with the heaviness of things like the loss of so many lives, the plight of healthcare workers, and the failing economy, more people than ever are tuning in to Facebook or Instagram livestreams, Zoom parties, TikTok and YouTube videos just to give themselves a little bit of a break.

And so, some creative people are gaining huge audiences, especially when their material falls somewhere between humorous and heartwarming. From the songs of quarantined Italians lifting their voices together from their balconies, to the grateful applause of New Yorkers (and residents of other cities) giving thanks for their healthcare workers, to penguins touring their own aquarium residences, to Scottish grannies wishing everyone well—the COVID-19 crisis has made quite a range of people (and animals) more famous (and more quickly) than they might have been at any other time.

And perhaps there will never be another time (this author hopes not!) when we all are so thankful for these online reminders of both the silly and sublime—reminders that other people are out there in the world, and many of them are really good people doing really good things.

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 videos have you seen recently that made you smile?

Have you ever thought about becoming famous? What would you do if you found out a quick way to obtain fame all at once? What kinds of things would you be willing to do to become famous?

Some people might say the best way to achieve notoriety is to work hard, become excellent at something, and do that thing for an incredibly long time. What do you think of that advice?

For some people, a few minutes online can turn into a quick trip to a better life—one that brings fame and fortune. But there is no such shortcut to everlasting life. Today we’ll find out why Jesus is the only way to get to heaven.

