

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Family Crises” the High School Sunday school lesson for May 17, 2020. The lesson is found on page 75 of *High School Teacher* by 21st Century Christian.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

COVID-19 has presented the whole world with a crisis like none of us has seen before. For months now, people all around the world have been watching the numbers of deaths rising and wondering what would happen next and whether it would ever be safe to leave their houses again. At the time of this article, there have been about 4.5 million cases worldwide and 304 thousand deaths.

And now as countries have begun to lift restrictions, anxieties have shifted to questions such as: How will we get back to normal? What activities are safe to do? Will there be another wave of infections?

For many teens, school is already over, and seniors in high school are grieving the loss of all their memorable senior events such as prom and graduation and all the parties and gatherings that go along with those milestones. Some teens may also be grieving the loss of loved ones, especially elder family members, as COVID has certainly hit older people the hardest.

All of this grief and loss and uncertainty can be a terribly heavy burden. Some deal with it by turning off all the news stories and just focusing on the good things around them. Some delve into research and arm themselves with facts. Many teens feel isolated from their normal support systems—friends and community members and employers and extended family—and have looked for new ways to make connections, often online and through social media. And considering the app TikTok now has 800 million active users, there are certainly plenty of new “friends” for teens to meet. But will these new friends and followers actually provide the connection teens need?

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:

How are you feeling about the effects of COVID-19? Have you felt more anxious as a result of this crisis?

How important is it for people to have in-person connections with friends and family? Can social media replace those connections?

How do you cope with news stories and facts that can be worrying?

Times of crisis can make us feel like caving in, but it is possible to overcome and be stronger as a result. Today we'll look at the story of Daniel and his friends to see how they survived a family crisis.

