

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Online, Not Out of Line” the High School Sunday school lesson for August 2, 2020. The lesson is found on page 55 of *High School Teacher* by 21st Century Christian.

# the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

The Internet. We love it. We hate it. We can't get away from it.

In the almost 40 years since its beginnings, the Internet has grown to connect almost half of the world's total population, and its reach is ever-expanding.

Today we can find healthy eating plans to fit any nutritional needs, beautiful imagery of scenes around the world that we would never otherwise see, and the latest lyrics from creative minds just at the start of their careers. We can laugh and chat together, and even see each other across thousands and thousands of miles (or just from down the street, when a pandemic restricts us from going out). But we also have access to tips on developing eating disorders, damaging pornographic photos, and explicit lyrics that assault our minds with dark, violent themes. We can make fun of people we'll probably never meet, and even systematically harass those we deem weak and vulnerable. We can insult, offend, ridicule, tear down, and do real harm to thousands upon thousands of people with just a few keystrokes and clicks.

So what do you think? Is it a blessing? Or is it a curse?

*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 would you answer the questions posed at the end of this article? Explain your answers.**

**What are some factors of the Internet that make it especially dangerous? What are some potentially life-giving aspects of the Internet?**

**What do you think would help you to steer away from temptation on the Internet?**

**The Internet is one of those things that can be beneficial if used in certain ways but harmful if used in other ways. Today we'll find some biblical principles we can apply to our use of the Internet to make sure we're handling this media tool wisely.**

