

Use “The Scene” to introduce “How Can I Help?” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for August 16, 2020. The lesson is found on page 69 of *Young Teen Teacher* by 21st Century Christian.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

For decades, CES (the Consumer Electronics Show) has been the place where the latest, cutting-edge technology has made its debut. Everything from the VCR (1970) to virtual reality systems (2015) have been revealed for the first time to the world at CES.

But every year, there are also some innovations that can make a person wonder. As in, wonder why in the world someone would want that thing, or wonder how in the world any normal person could ever pay for such a thing!

Recent shows have included these gems:

- a hundred-dollar Bluetooth, app-enabled toaster
- a smart fridge with a front door that turns transparent so you can see inside
- an animatronic lap dog (for only \$349)
- smart shoes that assess how far you will be able to run that day (in case you wake up one morning thinking you can go from couch to 5k in one hour)
- shoes that vacuum as you walk
- the Y-brush—which turns the 2-minute daily chore of brushing your teeth into a 10-second activity (just in case you really need to save those other 110 seconds for something special)
- a new Pampers diaper with baby sensor to tell parents how well (or not) their baby is sleeping (only \$350)
- a microwave/smart tablet so you can Instagram or video chat while nuking your dinner (hello social distancing)

Now if someone could just invent something that can also decide what I want for dinner, that would be great. I’d pay at least 10 dollars for that. Maybe 11 if it can land on something that will satisfy my whole family and not result in any “Do we *have* to eat this?” comments.

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:

Which of these inventions strikes you as something you might like to have? Which ones sound absolutely ridiculous? Why?

If you could invent something to help you with a problem you commonly encounter, what would you want to invent?

Sometimes people have the best intentions, but they just can’t make their invention work. What are some gadgets you use every day that have let you down at some point or another? What happened?

People often have good intentions when they are trying to help a friend in trouble. But sometimes they just seem to make things worse. Today we’re going to read about Job’s friends, and we’ll think about better ways to comfort people who are hurting.

