

Use “The Scene” to introduce “When Bad Things Happen” the High School Sunday school lesson for August 6, 2017. The lesson is found on page 63 of *High School Teacher*.



There was a local news story this past week that reported about a tragic accident. A young man watched his parents die right in front of him, as they were struck by a truck while on their motorcycle. That would have been horrible enough in itself. But the reason they were all riding together was that they had just finished riding in a memorial ride for the young man’s older brother, who had been buried about two weeks prior, having died from a drug overdose.

I saw that story. I read it several times. And I just kept thinking, How does that kid go on? He’s 19, and in the space of a month, he will have watched both his parents and his brother be buried. How does a person get over that?

There are stories of incredible tragedy in our world. There are stories of horrible natural disasters that strike in an instant and wipe whole villages off the map. There are tales of suffering that people inflict on one another.

But there are also stories of great joy, and grace, and hope. No doubt that young man will be surrounded by friends and family—by people who love him and can remember his loved ones with him. Maybe he will be reached by those who know a hope that goes beyond what we can see on the horizon. I sure hope so.

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the article. Then discuss in this way:

Have you known some people in your life that seem to have one bad thing after another happen to them? Maybe you’re that person. How have you dealt with that? What would you say to someone who is experiencing that kind of struggle?

Are some kinds of suffering harder for you to understand than others? How so?

Have you ever known of something good to come out of a time of suffering? What do you think about that? Do you believe that sometimes people have to suffer in order to understand goodness?

Many things in life are hard to understand. One thing that’s very hard to understand is suffering. Why do bad things happen? Why do we suffer? Today we’ll look at the story of Job to help us think through the experience of suffering.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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