

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Practice Makes Permanent” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for March 12, 2017. The lesson is found on page 11 of *Young Teen Teacher*.



Certainly, you could see how they'd want to test these things. I mean, it's no use having such substantial items if you don't know if they work, or how well they work. And isn't the point of having these things the idea that, if needed, they would actually function? That they would do what they were designed to do? So yes, it's understandable and not really alarming that practice would be required. Or, it *would* be not alarming, if the "they" in question weren't North Korea, and the "things" weren't ballistic missiles.

The funny thing about practicing is that people generally don't practice for stuff that they plan on never doing. Football players don't practice ballroom dancing choreography in preparation for their games. Engaged couples don't practice going to divorce court. Elite fashion designers don't practice shopping at Walmart.

And governments don't practice using weapons that they don't, on some level, think they might have cause to use.

So when North Korea began shooting missiles into the Sea of Japan, the whole world paid attention. Some analysts say it looks like North Korea was firing off the missiles as a kind of retaliation for the U.S. joining with South Korea in annual defensive military exercises. Others say it looked like North Korea was practicing to hit real U.S. bases in Japan.

But whatever the reason, it seems there is really no good that can come of it. But then again, one might wonder, isn't that what these missiles are designed for? To create no good? And if what the world really wants is peace, shouldn't we be practicing that?

*As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above article to read. Then discuss it in this way:*

**What do you think about the fact that countries practice using weapons that are meant to cause destruction in other countries?**

**What kinds of things do you regularly practice?**

**What could someone learn about you by seeing what things you practice on a regular basis?**

**Practice is meant to help people sharpen skills. But we need to know how to practice effectively, and it's also important to consider what we should be practicing. Solomon wrote of two characteristics that can make practice successful. Let's look at those today.**