



Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture



Use “The Scene” to introduce *Young Teen Bible school Lesson 7*.

Who’s in charge here? Check out these stories from this week’s news that show ways people try to exercise authority over others and how those under authority may react.

Assault with a living weapon—Police allege that William Singalargh of New Zealand picked up a hedgehog and threw it at a 15-year-old boy. “It hit the victim in the leg, causing a large, red welt and several puncture marks,” said police Senior Sergeant Bruce Jenkins. Singalargh faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison for his offense. Sergeant Jenkins admits that using a hedgehog as a weapon is uncommon, but was quick to add, “People often get charged with assault for throwing things at other people.”

Letter of the law—After 45 years of marriage, Serbian farmer Branko Zivkov and his wife Vukadinka got divorced. As a part of the settlement, Branko was ordered to give Vukadinka half of his farming equipment. He reluctantly complied with the court order by using a grinding machine to cut his farm tools and machines in half. “I still haven’t decided how to split the cow,” said the farmer.

How do you put candles on a carrot?—Pupils at Oteha Valley primary school north of Auckland, New Zealand, are allowed to celebrate their birthdays—but without cake. The Ministry of Education has been on a fat-busting crusade and has implemented strict guidelines against unhealthy food in New Zealand schools. The principal explained that because a large number of pupils were born in certain months, at times as many of four cakes have been brought to a class in a single week. The school has advised parents in a newsletter to stop sending cakes to school.

Lights out—The Olympic torch has been an important part of modern Olympics since 1928. This Monday in Paris, however, protesters tried to douse its flame as it was on its way to Beijing, China. Activists, angry about China’s human rights record and repression in Tibet, carried Tibetan flags and waved signs reading “the flame of shame.” About 3,000 officers guarded the flame—they were deployed on motorcycles, in jogging gear, and using inline roller skates. Despite the massive security, activists attempted to physically extinguish the torch three times. The torch relay is also expected to face demonstrations in San Francisco, New Delhi, and possibly elsewhere on its 21-stop, six-continent tour before arriving in Beijing on May 4.

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:

List the different types of authorities mentioned in the stories above. What are some ways people reacted to those authorities?

Name some authority figures to whom you must answer in your daily life. How did each of these people gain that authority? In your opinion, how does each of them exercise his or her authority justly?

There are many types of authority figures in our world—school officials, police, and the courts, to name a few. Some people submit to authorities by force. Some protest those authorities in many ways. The Bible tells us that Christians have one authority above all others—the King of all kings. Let’s understand what the Bible says about Jesus being our Lord and ultimate authority.