



Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture



Use “The Scene” to introduce *Young Teen Bible school Lesson 5*.

It’s not exactly news that parents embarrass their children sometimes! But in the case of a teenager in south Florida, there is concern that mom’s unorthodox blend of real estate and romance could bring even bigger problems!

Devon Trabosh is a single mother of a 14-year-old daughter. Ms. Trabosh has two major concerns in her life. She would like to be married again, and she is having trouble making mortgage payments on her house. While most people would believe that these are two issues that should be addressed separately, Trabosh thinks differently. Last week she placed ads on two popular Internet sites offering both her home and the opportunity of marrying her to interested bidders.

In her ad posted on eBay and Craigslist last week, she describes a life of romance and travel and a luxurious home in a gated community. “I figured, let’s combine the ad because I’m looking for love, and I’m looking to sell the house,” said Trabosh. She listed the home for \$340,000, but added a \$500,000 shipping fee to include her companionship. EBay removed her ad under the site’s prohibited services policy that does not allow the sale of human beings, body parts, or relationships. Nevertheless, Trabosh plans to change the wording of that ad and repost it.

In addition to the embarrassment of her mom’s unique attempt to find a husband and buyer for the house in a single step, Trabosh’s teen daughter is concerned that all responses to the ad may not be sincere. That concern seems to be justified.

Although Trabosh has yet to land any serious offers, she has had nearly 500 responses. Her favorite e-mails are from Claudio, a handsome Italian wine and cheese taster. Although he shows no interest in buying the house, Claudio and Trabosh have been writing to one another and plan to meet in Miami in a few weeks.

“I know I’m putting myself out there. I’m sincere. I believe in true love,” Trabosh says. “I want to get married again.”

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 feel if Devon Trabosh were your mother? Describe some of your feelings and the reasons for them. Trabosh claims to be sincere. Why would you believe or disbelieve her? Why would you be afraid that those responding to her might lack sincerity?

Is it easy for you to know whether a person is sincere or insincere? How can you tell the difference? What words and actions demonstrate sincerity or insincerity?

Ms. Trabosh’s daughter probably has good reasons to doubt the sincerity of those who respond to her mother’s ad! Sincerity is a major concern in relationships between people. Sincerity also matters in our relationship with God. A miracle of Jesus teaches us much about approaching God sincerely. Let’s examine it.