



 **The Scene**

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture



Use “The Scene” to introduce *Young Teen Bible school Lesson 12.*

C. S. Lewis’s *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* opened in theaters across the country this week. Like many heroes, Caspian overcame some great obstacles. The same was true of Caspian’s creator.

In Lewis’s classic tale, Caspian’s parents died when he was young. His villainous Uncle Miraz became his guardian. In the opening minutes of the film version of the story, Miraz seeks to murder his nephew in order to usurp the throne.

Ben Barnes, who plays the heroic prince, told reporters, “Caspian is an earnest character. He’s a bit of a lost soul.” Barnes continued to explain, “Caspian hasn’t been parented and has been brought up by someone who essentially doesn’t care about him at all and is just waiting to have his own heir so he can get rid of him. That’s not a very loving environment to be brought up in. The closest thing he has is his professor, and that was probably only a couple of years.”

In some ways, the crises in the life of Caspian mirrored some of the hardships in Lewis’s own life. When he was only 10, his mother died of cancer, leaving him to be reared by his distant, demanding, and eccentric father. That same year, Lewis was sent off to the Wynyard School in Watford, Hertfordshire. The atmosphere of the school was oppressive. Shortly after Lewis’s enrollment, the school was closed and the headmaster, Robert “Oldie” Capron, was committed to an insane asylum.

At the age of 19, Lewis enlisted in the British Army and experienced brutal trench warfare during World War I. On April 15, 1917, Lewis was wounded during the Battle of Arras. He recovered, but he would later lose his best friend, “Paddy” Moore, in battle.

But Lewis, like Prince Caspian and many other fictional characters he would create over his life, emerged a victor. Despite his struggles, Lewis became known worldwide for his work on medieval literature, Christian apologetics, literary criticism, and fiction. His *Chronicles of Narnia* books alone have sold more than 100 million copies. Actor Barnes has already signed to portray Caspian in the next installment of that series, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. “[Prince Caspian is] an interesting character,” says Barnes, “and I’m excited to see how he develops.”

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:

Have you seen or do you plan to see this film? What do you know about this story? Compare and contrast what you know about the life of author Lewis to his fictional prince. Can you name any other people of fact or fiction who overcame great hardship?

Tell about a hardship you faced. How did going through that crisis strengthen you?

Although a time of crisis in our families may make us feel like caving in, it is possible to come through it and be stronger as a result. Today we will look at a person from biblical history who had a childhood every bit as traumatic as those of Lewis and Prince Caspian. Let’s see what we can learn about emerging victorious when tough times hit our own families.



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