



Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture



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

A few stories in the news this week illustrate the importance of being able to see.

Dangerous show—Dozens of partygoers at an outdoor music festival in Russia last week have lost partial vision after a laser light show burned their retinas. Russian health officials confirmed 12 cases of laser-blindness among attendees at the July 5 Aquamarine Open Air Festival held outside of Moscow. Partygoers began seeking medical help days after the show, complaining of eye and vision problems.

Laser experts at www.laserfx.com warn that such devices must be used with extreme caution. Focused laser light can cause eye damage almost instantly. The owner of a Moscow laser rental company told reporters that the accidental blinding was due to “illiteracy on the part of technicians.”

Promising technology—A small company in California has a big idea that may make a big difference to people losing their sight. NeoVista Inc. has developed a device that promises help for people with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the most common cause of blindness. As people age, blood vessels in the eyes may start to leak, causing AMD. NeoVista’s apparatus focuses beta rays (a stream of fast-moving electrons) on leaking vessels to seal them and prevent further loss of sight.

The small company likes the new device because of its efficiency and economy. “When you look at the medical device marketplace, you try to find . . . a procedure as good as or better [and] less expensive and improves the quality of life of people,” said NeoVista President and CEO John Hendrick.

Brave student—Daniel O’Dell has failing vision. The 11-year-old from Minnesota, wears stylish Nike glasses and goes on camping trips with his Boy Scout troop. Yet an untreatable condition called Bardet-Biedl syndrome will steal all of his vision by the time he reaches adulthood.

Diagnosed at birth with this rare genetic disorder that causes retinal degeneration, Daniel has been gradually losing his eyesight over the last four years. At Midlakes Intermediate School, Daniel has begun learning to type on a Braille machine, multiply and divide on an abacus, and read books and do homework in Braille to keep up with his classmates’ assignments.

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 do each of the stories above stress the importance of being able to see? Have you or anyone you know experienced vision problems of any sort? How do such problems affect one’s life?

What are some ways you depend on being able to see clearly? How does seeing something help you understand it better than relying upon your other senses alone?

Eyesight is precious. We learn a lot by being able to process visual images. Even when we seek entertainment, images available to us through TV and movies have a great effect upon us. God knows how much we learn by seeing. He designed us to learn this way! Let’s look at what happens when something is acted out in front of us and how we can use this way of learning to its maximum benefit.