

Use The Scene to introduce “Hannah—A Woman of Gratitude,” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for November 9, 2014. The lesson is found on page 63 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

# the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

Common wisdom says that teens enter the business world with primarily selfish motives—they want to earn money for a car, clothing, or other items for themselves. But more and more teens are beginning their own businesses because they want to make the world a better place. Here are a few young inventors and businesspersons in the news recently.

**Ciara Judge, Émer Hickey, and Sophie Healy-Thow**—These three Irish high school students won the top prize in this year’s Google Science Fair. The teens showed that seeds treated with a common bacteria will sprout more quickly and yield larger crops. This could be especially helpful in their native Ireland. The cool and wet weather in that country can cause seeds planted too early in the growing season to rot in the ground before they germinate. Their discovery could eventually help alleviate world hunger.

After graduation, the girls want to continue their research and bring their process to market. “We want to change the world,” says Émer Hickey. “We want to commercialize this.”

**Trisha Prabhu**—This 14-year-old Chicago teen became concerned about the damage done by hurtful messages posted on social media sites. She decided to do something to respond to it. A computer programmer for the past four years, Trisha developed Rethink, a program that warns a user that something he or she is about to post could hurt someone. In testing the software, Trisha found that about 7 out of 10 users about to make a hateful post decided not to do so after being warned by the program.

Trisha is now turning this program into a mobile app extension. She wants it to be available for all social media programs. “I want to end cyberbullying,” she says.

**Katelyn Lohr**—The invention of this Canadian teen won’t change the world—but her approach to business might! At age 13, she launched her own company, Freetoes Brand, to sell socks without toes. Her Freetoes are designed for girls involved in dance and gymnastics or just those who want to get a pedicure without removing their socks. Freetoes are available in stores like Toys R Us, Hallmark, and Learning Express.

A portion of Katelyn’s profits go to charity. “Helping people is always something I wanted to do,” Says Katelyn. “I have had lots of opportunities to give. And Project Aftershock (a Haitian Relief charity) is one of them.”

“Thirty years ago, the primary motivation for teen-led businesses was often solely to make money,” says business author Emmanuel Modu. “Now most of the teen entrepreneurs and inventors we encounter are also motivated by the desire to help solve societal problems in their own way.”

*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:*

**Consider the inventions and businesses mentioned in this article. How do these teens reflect gratitude for what they have and a desire to make life better for others?**

**The Bible tells of a woman who was so grateful for the gift of a son, she gave him up so he could live a life of service for others. Let’s learn more about Hannah today.**