

Use The Scene to introduce “Authority: How Do I Use It?”, the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for November 30, 2014. The lesson is found on page 83 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

When middle school student Shubham Banerjee discovered that the cost of Braille printers (used to help blind people read and write) was in the thousands of dollars, he thought something should be done. Now he is in charge of a company that hopes to sell these printers at a fraction of that cost.

Last year, Shubham came across a fund-raising flyer for an organization aiding the visually impaired. He started to wonder how blind people read. As he searched the web, he learned more about Braille, the system of representing letters as raised bumps on paper. He also learned that Braille printers for personal computers were far out of the price range of many who need one.

Early this year, the 7th grader took action. He created a working Braille printer using a Lego robotics kit and some other electronic components. He dubbed his creation Braigo, a name that combined the words *Braille* and *Lego*, and he entered it in his school’s science fair.

The school science fair was only the beginning. In May, Shubham participated in the Lego “Build 4 Good” challenge that took place in Seattle. Teams were tasked to build robots that creatively solve everyday problems. This past summer Shubham was invited to the very first White House Maker Faire, along with entrepreneurs, engineers, and researchers from 25 states. Open Forum 2014, a Silicon Valley business conference, gave Shubham their 2014 Youth Innovation Award.

But more was yet to come. Impressed by his product and vision, computer giant Intel told the 13-year-old inventor that it would invest in his company. Early this month, the investment was made official at the Intel Capital Global Summit. Shubham’s new company, Braigo Labs, was one of the 16 tech startups Intel has chosen to invest in this year. Although the exact amount of the investment was not disclosed, it’s reported to be a few hundred thousand dollars.

“I didn’t think such a big company would ever invest in my company. That was pretty amazing,” Banerjee says. “I turned to my dad, and said, ‘What did he just say?’” Banerjee recalls. “I was all over the place.”

With Intel’s funding, Braigo Labs plans to build a new prototype that more resembles a regular printer, and bring it to market by next year. Banerjee says he has no plans to expand into other product categories at this point, but Braille printers seem to be only a part of a bigger dream he has in mind. “I was just trying to help people,” he says. “I never thought it would come this far.”

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 what Shubham has accomplished in less than a year. What motivated him to begin his company? What do you think the future may have in store for him?

Think of a problem you see in the world today. If you had the authority to do something about it, what are some things you would do?

In finishing our unit about authority, we must realize that we each may have power and influence someday. How does God want us to use authority when we are put in charge of something? Let’s look at what the Bible says about this.