

Use The Scene to introduce “Relationships,” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for February 22, 2015. The lesson is found on page 75 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

What do you get when you cross “The Walking Dead” and Animal Planet? Bart, the “Zombie Cat,” from Tampa, Florida. After being hit by a car, Bart was presumed dead and buried. But Zombie Cat had other ideas.

The cat’s owner, Ellis Hutson, buried his furry friend in his backyard following a traffic accident that left the cat unresponsive, lying in a pool of blood. “If we’d seen that cat on the road, we’d assume he was dead [too],” said Nash McCutchen of the Humane Society.

Five days later a neighbor found Bart wandering around his yard. The cat had apparently crawled his way out of the grave! The neighbor returned the cat to its owner, who then contacted the Humane Society. Bart was in bad shape. He had open wounds infected with maggots. He had trouble walking. He was dehydrated and suffered facial injuries.

But Bart had no internal injuries at all. He underwent surgery to remove his left eye and wire his jaw shut. At this point, Bart seems to be doing well. He’s very friendly, loves to be petted, and purrs at visitors. “He seems to be a little fighter,” McCutchen said.

Bart the Zombie Cat is expected to make a full recovery. However, where he’ll end up is still a mystery. “This cat was raised with my daughter,” Hutson said. “We just want our family pet back.” The Humane Society, however, wants further investigation before handing him over. In the meantime, Bart seems content to be back above ground.

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 you think Bart’s owner felt when his cat was discovered alive?

Have you ever had a pet? What is your favorite memory about that pet?

Have you ever lost a pet? What was the hardest thing about that loss?

As children, pets are often our first best friends. As we grow older, they can become part of our family. Pets can be important parts of our lives, but they can’t take the place of human interactions. Today we’ll dig into the advice that Paul gave to Timothy about the relationships Christians have with other people.