

# the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

On May 6, 2014, Alissa Sizemore was doing what many seven-year-old little girls do—playing outside with her friends. Alissa ran past some garbage cans on the curb just as the truck was pulling up. The truck ran over her right foot, immediately tearing it off. Her leg was amputated below the knee. No one was sure what the future held for this spirited young girl. But by February 28, 2015, Alissa was doing something no one would have dreamed possible—she was dancing.

Alissa’s mom recalls having to explain. “She didn’t understand why they couldn’t just give her back her foot. And then, to have half of her leg gone too, how do you explain that?” Her family knew it was going to be a rough road to recovery. “But I also knew that she was very determined and never gives up,” says Alissa’s dad. “She’s always been like that. I told her, ‘With or without your leg, you’re the same person.’”

And that person was no quitter. Knowing her love of ballet and jazz dancing, her family built a studio at home. Because her family’s health insurance didn’t cover the entire cost of surgeries and a prosthetic limb, Alissa got around using crutches or a wheelchair until they were able to raise the money needed. When she returned to the local dance studio for tryouts, her mom assumed Alissa would be helping with the music as her sisters performed. Instead, “she handed me her crutches and said she was trying out. She hopped to the middle of the room and gave it her all. She wasn’t going to let anybody hold her back.”

And she certainly did not. Halfway through her first recital performance, Alissa reached down and removed her prosthetic leg. With an expression of sheer joy on her face, she finished her routine on the floor. She received a standing ovation from a teary-eyed crowd.

Noah Galloway (an amputee war vet currently competing on *Dancing with the Stars*) heard about Alissa and invited her to be his special guest at Monday night’s performance. Alissa got to sit in the front row and meet Galloway and his partner, Sharna Burgess. She also got to meet Amy Purdy, a world-class snowboarder who lost both her legs below the knee after contracting bacterial meningitis.

“Alissa would go through moments when she thought she wouldn’t be able to dance again, so I would show her people like Amy who were doing similar things,” said Alissa’s mom. When asked about her experience on the show and about Galloway’s performance, Alissa remarked, “He was awesome. He makes it look easy.”

*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 Alissa felt when she got to meet Noah Galloway and Amy Purdy? How do you think they felt when they got to meet her?**

**What is most inspiring about Alissa’s story? Who are some people who inspire you?**

**Sometimes we admire celebrities or athletes for their abilities or beauty. Other times we can find much to admire in simple, ordinary people. But as Christians, we have the opportunity to admire someone who greatly exceeds them all—God! We can come into His presence and praise Him for who He is and all He’s done. Today let’s explore what’s involved in true worship.**

*To show the video of Alissa’s recital performance, visit [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search “Alissa Sizemore’s first competition since accident.”*



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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