

While fireworks have been a part of celebrating the Fourth of July since the beginning of the United States, citizens still have a lot to learn. Every summer, officials remind the public of laws regarding the use of fireworks and instructions for using them safely. The announcements can be found online, on the TV and radio, and in newspapers. Unfortunately, people ignore the laws and rules about using fireworks. In 2017 in the United States there were almost 13,000 fireworks-related injuries, including 8 deaths. Roughly 70 percent of the injuries happened between June 18 and July 17. Most accidents involve people being careless with sparklers and holding explosive fireworks while shooting them off. The number of fireworks-related accidents this year has not yet been added up, but so far there have been reports of severe burns, missing fingers, other injuries, as well as several deaths.

Think About It . . .

- Why don't people obey the laws and instructions regarding the use of fireworks?
- What consequences can happen when you don't follow rules and instructions?

THE BEAT

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Lesson 7



Article and activity by Rebecca Haynes Mott

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Consequences

Ask preteens to brainstorm items that come with instructions; jot their ideas on the board. Beside one of the items, draw two long, thin rectangles, resembling roman candles. One should be pointed up, the other pointed down. Ask students to think of consequences that could happen for following the instructions for that item; write those on the rectangle pointed up. Then have students think of consequences that could happen for *not* following the instructions; write those on the rectangle pointed down. Do the same for several of the items on the board. SAY: **There are consequences for following and not following rules and instructions. Let's dig into God's Word to see what it says about that.**

Will you choose to follow Jesus' instructions?