

News Story Summary

On June 1, 29-year-old American woman named Katherine Chappell toured a South African wild animal preserve. She and her driver, Pierre Potgieter, approached some lions near the pathway. Chappell rolled down the window to the car she was in to take pictures. There are numerous signs warning of the danger, and guests are given written instructions when they arrive that include statements about keeping the windows closed on all vehicles. Witnesses in other cars saw the lion approaching and tried to alert Chappell and her driver, by honking their horns. The lion stopped about 1 meter from the car and then lunged at Chappell, biting her. Potgieter injured his arm trying to protect the woman. Then, he applied pressure to her wound but was unable to save her life.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase “lion mauls Katherine Chappell.”)

Focus Attention

Relay the news story Katherine Chappell’s death. Ask: What do you think motivated Chappell to ignore the warnings given? What factors contribute to the ignoring of warning signs?

Explain that today’s scripture includes warning cry for Christians of the dangers of being carried away from our walk with God. Characterize John as attempting to get the attention of God’s children by “honking a horn.” Encourage the group to look for the warnings issued through John.

Challenge

Remind the group of the Katherine Chappell story. Ask: How would this story be different if the warning signs had been heeded? What actions could the driver have taken that could have changed the outcome? What actions can we take to warn others about spiritual dangers?

Review the warning signs given by John. Explain that we need to listen to and heed the teachings of the Holy Spirit living within us. Encourage the group to make a silent commitment to “listen” and to “heed” as you lead in prayer.