

OVERCOMER

The Life of Joseph

Pay Attention!

Level of Biblical Learning:

God wants people to live every day in ways that please and honor Him.

Genesis 45

Parent Helps:

- Ask: “Can you do homework and watch television at the same time? Can you read a book and listen to the radio? Can you do schoolwork while playing outside?” Explain that people often need to turn off or put away things that keep them from paying attention.
- Tell about a time when you did not pay attention. What happened? Is there a time when someone did not pay attention to something important you had to say?
- Explain that God wants people to pay attention to Him. God wants your attention so He can teach you how to love and obey Him. God will also help you learn to love and serve others.
- Review Joseph’s conversation with his brothers in Genesis 45. Emphasize Genesis 45:24. Explain that Joseph wanted his brothers to pay attention (or not get distracted) on their way to Canaan.

Discussion Questions:

Younger Kids:

1. Do you sometimes forget to pay attention? How so?
2. Why do you think people should pay attention to the things God says in the Bible?
3. What is something important that God tells you to do?

Older Kids:

1. How can kids pay attention to God? (Read the Bible; Spend time with God in prayer/worship; Obey His Word; Memorize Bible verses.)
2. What things make it difficult for you to pay attention to God? (TV, online media, video games, and so on)
3. What things help you stay focused on God?

Apply:

- God loves people and pays attention to them. (Isaiah 65:24; Matthew 6:26)
- Christians should stay focused on God and live in ways that honor Him. (Hebrews 12:1-2)
- Put away distractions. Jesus often went away by Himself to focus on God and get rid of distractions. (Luke 5:16; Mark 6:31,46.)

Activity:

Play a traditional game of “Simon Says.” Give directions such as: pat your head, balance on one foot, march in place, and so on. Encourage your child to listen carefully. Explain that he should pay close attention and only do the action when you say: “Simon Says.” Remind your child that it is important to pay attention to God’s Words in the Bible and obey them.

Pray Together:

- Thank God for loving and caring for you. Thank Him for listening to your prayers.
- Admit to God times when you have allowed other things to keep you from focusing on Him.
- Ask God to help you pay attention to His Word and put aside distractions.