

FOCUS THE MIND

SCRIPTURE:

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3: 1-3)

MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) Water Hose Nozzle

MAIN MESSAGE:

Focus is the name of the game. Without it, we will be all over the place. With it, we are purposed and know exactly where we are heading. We must be focused on the things above, not on the things of this earth.

SONG: "Come We That Love The Lord"

LESSON:

There are certain toys that are just fun no matter what age you are. A water hose nozzle is one of those toys. I realize it's not meant to be a toy, but in a water fight, there's no place I'd rather be than next to the water source, holding the nozzle just letting all the kids have it. With the ability to sprinkle a shower, or to turn the head and focus the water into a straight cannon-like stream, the water hose nozzle may just be the most versatile force in a water war.

Growing up, we didn't always have a water hose nozzle, so we had to improvise. As I'm sure you know, to increase the distance the water can shoot out of the hose, you have to increase the pressure by focusing the water to come out of a smaller opening - this could be created if you put your thumb over the end of the hose. It's this concept of focus that makes the water hose such a great tool and will serve as our main lesson for this devotional.

Life places before us so many options. Like a car in the drive-thru line, we slow down long enough to see what we would like to get on our way to our next destination. When we shop, it's not enough simply to get jeans. We must decide if we want the jeans that are loose, regular, or skinny fit (which I don't know why anyone would ever want jeans that are so tight they look like they are painted on). When it comes to hobbies, are you interested in baseball, golf, wood working, or cross-stitching? There are a lot of choices out there, and these are just the ones that relate to our interest. What about options our world throws at us when it comes to morality, marriage, or even religion? That's why focus is so important.

The Bible tells us to set our minds on things that are above instead of on earthly things. Paul goes on in Colossians 3:5-17, to draw up a description of each of these. The earthly would include such things as lying, anger, greed, evil desire, and idolatry. While the things above would include kindness, humility, gentleness, and humility. There's a big difference between the two, and focus is definitely required so distraction doesn't occur. What ways can your family set your mind on things above? What are some obstacles to remaining focused?

PRAYER: Give us a focused vision and focused mindset. Give us the courage to rid ourselves of the distractions.