



Family Discipleship Resource

Key Point: God is attentive. He hears and responds to the prayers of His children.

This week, we continued in the narrative of the Israelites in Egypt. We saw that after living (and growing) in Egypt for 400 years, the Egyptians saw the Israelites as a threat and enslaved them. They cried out to God for deliverance and God was attentive: He heard their cries and raised up Moses.

Capture discipleship moments: After dinner one evening, talk through the questions below. Anytime we open the Bible and talk about God, we need to pray and ask Him to help us because only God can teach our hearts. Pray with your family for God to give understanding and belief.

1. What does it mean for someone to be attentive?
It means they are paying attention to you. They know where you are and what you're doing, and they listen when you speak.
2. How does it feel to know you have someone's undivided attention?
3. What is prayer? It is talking with God.
4. What does it mean for God to hear the prayers of His children?
It means He listens to our prayers without being distracted.
5. What does it mean for God to respond to the prayers of His children?
It means He does something about our prayers – He acts according to His will and for His glory.
6. What had happened to God's people after Joseph died? They continued to multiply – which means there were lots of them – and eventually they were made slaves in Egypt.
7. How were they treated by their Egyptian masters?
They were treated harshly. Their work was difficult and their lives were hard.
8. What did they do in their distress?
They prayed to God for help.
9. Did God hear and respond to their prayers? Yes.
10. How did God respond to their prayers?
He sent Moses to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

Open to and read **Psalm 34:15** together.

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

1. This verse talks about the righteous. Who are the righteous?
God's children- those who love and trust Jesus.
2. Who are the eyes of God on? His children.
3. What do you do with your eyes? You see, watch, look.
4. What does it mean for God's eyes to be *toward* the righteous?
God is always watching His children. He sees them and pays attention to them.
5. Do you think there are times when God doesn't notice something in the world?

- No. He sees everything, and He is never surprised by a situation.
6. In this verse, what do we learn about God's ears? They are toward the cries of the righteous. That means He is listening, paying attention to them. He hears them.
 7. What does it mean for God to be attentive to the "cries" of His children? Does that mean He only listens to His children if they are crying? No. It means God is attentive to His children's prayers. God hears and responds to His children's prayers whether they are crying or not.
 8. What is it like when you talk to someone who isn't looking at or listening to you? It is frustrating. You don't want to talk to them. You might feel like they don't care about you.
 9. If God is always watching His children and listening to their prayers, how do His children respond to His attentiveness?
God's children want to talk with God. They trust that God hears and responds to their prayers and that His response is always wise and loving. God's children trust that His timing is good and may look different than their timing.
 10. Is it easy or difficult for you to believe that God is attentive? Why or why not?
 11. Does that fact that God is attentive mean that He answers every prayer the way we want or think He should? No. Sometimes God says "yes" to the things we ask Him for. But sometimes He says "wait" or "no".
 12. What other attributes of God can we remember to help us trust Him when we don't understand His answers to prayer?
God is wise - He knows what is best. God is loving - He does what is best.
 13. What questions do you have about God being attentive or about prayer?

*****Additional passages for study:** Exodus 2:23-25

Create discipleship time: Recap by asking your kids what they learned, as they **color their Attentive Attribute Sign** for your Attribute Wall at home.

1. What is one thing you learned about God today?
God is always paying attention to His children.
2. What is one thing you learned about yourself today?
I can trust that the way God answers prayers is good.

Pray together as a family. Ask each member of your family – parents included – to share one thing they would like prayer over. Have someone pray for that person's request. Challenge them to pray for that person all week long. Parents, pray a blessing over your children as you close.

MVOTM.

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:17-18