

Morning Star Church
Small Group Study Guide
Directionally Challenged #5: Center of Attention
January 30-31, 2010

Message Synopsis: Pastor Mike finished up our series *Directionally Challenged* by teaching on the importance of us paying attention to what is going on in our lives. The direction we follow in life is determined by where we put our attention, which becomes our focus. In order to be a successful driver, the road must be the center of attention, not texting. A triumphant hunter must maintain his focus on the target, or he gets hungry real fast. Mike challenged us to be aware that our *center of attention* determines the direction and the destination of our life.

Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight... Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. Psalm 119:35, 37, NIV

Additional passages to consider: Deuteronomy 7:12; Proverbs 4:20-27; Matthew 6:22-23; Matthew 14:24-32; Deuteronomy 4:9

Questions to consider in your small group:

1. What are the things that tend to grab our attention away from following God? Would you consider some of these things worthless? Why or why not?
2. In Proverbs 4, Solomon discusses the vital importance of keeping our center of attention in things that are worthwhile. What truths are of vital importance to centering your life?
3. In Matthew 6, Jesus talks about having *bad eyes* and *good eyes*; what is the difference? Is there hope for anyone who might need spiritual laser eye surgery?
4. In his book, *The Principle of the Path*, Andy Stanley talks about maintaining good eyesight. He said "*If you are like me, the problem is not lack of understanding as much as it is the lack of application.*" So what would be your plan to improve your eyesight?
5. Just like Peter's experience on the water, we become enamored by the busyness and distractions of life. Share with your group suggestions of how we can see what God is doing in our lives?

Prayer requests:

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Sermon Notes
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What gets my ATTENTION determines my DIRECTION,
and ultimately my DESTINATION.

Developing My Attention Span

1. Be aware of what tends to GRAB MY ATTENTION.

"Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word." (Psalm 119:35-37)

2. Be intentional about where I GIVE MY ATTENTION.

"Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you...Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil."
(Solomon, Proverbs 4:25,27)

3. Be willing to PAY ATTENTION to my highest priorities.

"If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the LORD your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your forefathers. He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers." (Moses, Deuteronomy 7:12-13)

4. Make Jesus Christ the CENTER OF MY ATTENTION.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." (Hebrews 12:1-3)

For further devotional study ...

February 1 Psalm 119: 35-37

February 5 Matthew 14:24-32

February 2 Proverbs 4:20-27

February 6 Ephesians 1:19-23

February 3 Isaiah 59:9-10

February 7 Deuteronomy 4:9-10

February 4 Matthew 6:22-23