

The Way I Should Go

Stories for Training Your Child Volume 2



“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” - Proverbs 22:6 KJV

Michelle Jansma

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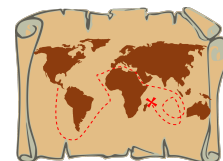
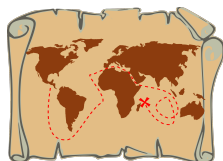
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Attentiveness

Proverbs 1:5 - let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance. NIV



Attentiveness

It was Saturday afternoon and Kyle was on the couch watching baseball when his dad walked passed.

"Kyle, I have a load of firewood in the back of my truck that I want you to unload for me," his father said.

"Ok, Dad," Kyle answered.

His dad stopped at the bottom of the stairs, "Oh, but Kyle, I don't want it stacked against the wall of the garage where we normally keep it. Stack it on the other wall by the cabinets."

"Got it," Kyle replied from the couch.

When the game was finished, Kyle turned off the TV. "Better go take care of that firewood," he said, setting the TV remote down. He walked out into the garage and opened the garage door. His father's truck was parked outside.

Opening the back of the truck, Kyle started gathering a few logs of firewood in his arms. Walking into the garage, he thought to himself, "What did Dad say about the cabinets?"

He stacked his load of firewood against the wall, "Probably reminding me not to put them there. I know they go against this wall," he muttered. Turning, he headed back for the truck and picked up another load of firewood.

When all the wood was neatly stacked against the wall, Kyle pushed the garage door button and headed inside as the garage door started to close.

About an hour later, Kyle's dad called him downstairs. "Yeah, Dad?" Kyle asked walking into the kitchen where his dad stood.

"What happened with the firewood?" his dad asked.

"I stacked it against the wall," Kyle answered, "Like you said."

"That's not what I said to do," Kyle's father told him, "I said to stack it against the wall by the cabinets instead of where we normally stack it. I just went out and bought a snowblower for the winter, and I want to put it against the wall where the wood used to go."

"Oh," Kyle responded, "Sorry, I didn't hear that part."

Just then Kyle's mom walked into the kitchen, "Kyle, I just got a message from your coach that you haven't turned in some form he handed out last month. Something about a fundraiser."

"Oh, that," Kyle said, "Yeah, he passed out information a while ago about a team fundraiser, but he never said anything about bringing it back."

"Where is it?" Mom asked.

"In my duffel bag," answered Kyle, "I'll go get it."

"See," Kyle said, coming back into the kitchen, handing a folded paper to his mother, "there's nothing about bringing it back."

Kyle's mom quickly read the paper. "Kyle," she said, pointing to the bottom, "It says right here to return by Friday the 12th and to have your parents sign it."

"Oh," Kyle said, "Sorry, I didn't know that."

Kyle's dad put a hand on his shoulder, "It sounds like you're having a problem with attentiveness, son."

"What do you mean?" Kyle asked.

"Well," said Dad, "Being attentive means you pay close attention to something, and you pay attention because you care about doing a job right, and you want to be helpful to others. When I told you about the firewood, you didn't give your full attention to my directions. You obeyed, and you stacked the wood, but because you weren't paying attention to the directions, the job wasn't done right."

"And if you had been giving your full attention to your coach when he went over the paper," said Mom, "you would have known exactly what you needed to do with that form for the fundraiser."

"God is happy when we are attentive because He tells us to make sure we always do our best. We can't do our best if we're not paying attention to what the job is. And, being attentive shows others that you care for them and think they're important. Does that make sense?"

Kyle nodded, "Yeah, it does. Mom, Dad, I'm really sorry that I didn't give my full attention. I'm going to try my best to be more attentive."

"Good for you, son," Kyle's dad said, laying a hand on his shoulder.

“And I’m going to start by apologizing to Coach at practice tonight,” Kyle said, “and by going to move that woodpile to the spot you wanted, Dad.”

