

Lesson 5

Focus

STAY FOCUSED ON GOD

Overview

Theme

Josiah: A Study in Godly Leadership

Big Question

What If It's Up to Me?

Scripture

2 Chronicles 34

Scripture Memory

2 Chronicles 34:1, 2

	Section	Students will . . .	Supplies
Pre-Start	Pre-Start Activities (15 minutes before class begins)	build relationships and have fun!	Pre-Start Activities (pp. 8, 9), SuperStart! DVD (Intro Loop), SuperStart! CD, CD and DVD players, TV or projection equipment
Large Group	Get-Started Activity (5 minutes)	discover how hard it is to stay focused.	SuperStart! DVD (Countdown), DVD player, TV or projection equipment
	Teaching Time (15 minutes)	discover that it's important to stay focused on God.	SuperStart! DVD (Ancient Ruins Clips, Lesson 5), DVD player, TV or projection equipment, Bible
	Worship (10 minutes)	focus on God, praising and worshipping Him.	SuperStart! CD, CD player
Small Group	Scripture Study (15 minutes)	study the Scripture to discover that it's important to stay focused on God.	<i>SuperStart!</i> magazines, Bibles, pencils or pens
	Scripture Memory Discovery (5 minutes)	learn 2 Chronicles 34:1, 2.	Bibles
	Life Application (5 minutes)	share about last week's challenge and discuss a challenge for this week.	[optional: inexpensive magnifying glasses, permanent markers]
	Recap (5 minutes)	be encouraged to stay focused on God.	[optional: Lesson 5 CD print files Challenge cards and Scripture memory reminder cards]
Extra Time	Extra-Time Activities	further explore the lesson.	Unit 2 Extra-Time Activities (p. 38)

Things to do ahead of time:

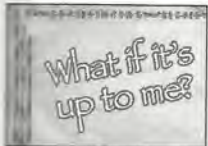
1. Set out the supplies for the Pre-Start Activities.
2. Collect supplies for the small groups. Go to www.superstartpreteen.com for downloadable PDFs of the small-group time that you can e-mail to small-group leaders.
3. Make sure the DVD and CD players and projection equipment are cued and ready to go.

Supplies

Pre-Start Activities (pp. 8, 9),
SuperStart! DVD (Intro Loop;
Countdown; Ancient Ruins
Games, Lesson 5), SuperStart!
DVD and CD players, TV or
projection equipment, Bible

Before Class

The CD is a Big Question
poster and a Scripture Memory
poster for Unit 2 and Tabitha's
photo. You may want to print
and display these in your area.
You can display the Big Question
poster above Tabitha's photo, as
shown below.



Pre-Start

(15 minutes before class)

Choose several of the Pre-Start Activities for students to do as they arrive. You can play songs from the CD and show the DVD Intro Loop as students have fun and interact with the volunteers.

Large Group

(30 minutes)

Get-Started Activity, Teaching Time, Worship

Get-Started Activity (5 minutes)

Play one of the Countdowns when you are ready to begin the Get-Started Activity. Have students pair up and challenge their partners to a stare down. See how long students can go before they blink or look away. After a few minutes, ask:

- **What were you thinking about during your stare downs?** (*not blinking, how to make them blink or laugh, not much*)
- **How do you win a stare down?** (*by staring the longest, by staying focused on the other person's eyes*)
- **How easy or hard is it to win a stare down?** (*easy, if I can make the other person blink or laugh; hard, because my eyes want to blink*)

Teaching Time (15 minutes)

Prepare students for the video by saying, **We're going to continue watching video clips based on the ancient Ōibii (Who we be) people. We don't know much about the Ōibii people except that they were divided into three tribes and that they got together every year to compete against each other and to celebrate who they were as a people. For the reenactment, Samantha is chief of the Paui tribe. Eric is chief of the Zebu tribe. And Tabitha is chief of the Fera tribe. Patrick is the master of ceremonies of the Ōibii games. In today's clip, Eric shows Tabitha and Samantha the game he has created.**

Show the video clip.

After the video clip, ask these questions and solicit one or two answers for each:

- **What do you think about Eric's claim to be able to keep his focus?** (*he couldn't do what he claimed, I knew he couldn't be that focused*)

- **What distracts you or breaks your focus when you're supposed to be doing your homework or getting your chores done?** *(phone calls or text messages, TV, music, my little brother)*
- **Why are distractions a problem?** *(they keep me from doing what I should, they get me into trouble)*

During the next several weeks we're going to take a look at what it takes to be a leader. Many of you want to be in charge of someone or some event. Maybe you want to be the team captain or the boss of your brother or sister. Maybe you want to be in charge of a special project. Maybe you would like to be the one to make the decisions at school or at home. You may think that being in charge is cool and makes you feel important.

We're going to look at someone who was a good leader and see what we can find out. In the book of 2 Chronicles in our Bibles, we read about Josiah. He was only 8 years old when he became king of Judah! What would you do if you suddenly became president of the United States? Would you be a good leader? How would you know what to do? Let's see what Josiah did. Ask for a volunteer to come to the front and read 2 Chronicles 34:1, 2. Ask the volunteer to tell what King Josiah did.

Everyone, turn your head to the right and then to the left. Does this Scripture mean that Josiah never turned his head and looked to the right or left? No, not at all. It means that Josiah kept going in the right direction, which meant that he followed God. He stayed focused on God and didn't get distracted from doing what was right. It sounds easy enough, but was it?

- **What could have distracted King Josiah from following God and doing right?** *(fame, money, power, people, doing fun things since he was just a kid)*

Have students stand and form groups of three. Ask one person in each group to stay focused on you as you read 2 Chronicles 34:1-13. Tell the other two students in each group to distract the other person from listening, except that they can't talk. When finished reading the Scripture verses, have everyone sit down.

- **What was it like to try to stay focused while others tried to distract you?** *(hard, because they were funny; easy, because I'm a good listener)*
- **How easy or hard was it to distract the person who was trying to stay focused on me?** *(easy, because we tried really hard; hard, because they were really listening to you)*


Bible Insight

2 Chronicles 34:1, 2
Josiah was a descendant of King David and was the last godly king prior to the exile of God's people. Josiah seemed to be devoted to God and kept his focus looking straight ahead at God, not turning to the right or to the left.



Teacher Tip

If you have time and would like to add more thoughts from Scripture, see these passages: Deuteronomy 17:11; 28:14; Philippians 3:12-14.



For the next few weeks we're thinking about a big question, "What if it's up to me?" Think how you might answer that. What if it were up to you to make choices for a group at school? What if you were the team captain? What if you were a leader? How could you be a good leader and **STAY FOCUSED ON GOD**? It was up to Josiah even though he was only 8 years old. He was in charge—he was king! Josiah was a good leader like his ancestor King David. Josiah, like David, did what was right in God's sight. Josiah didn't get distracted by power, fame, money, or what others said. He chose to focus on God. When you're in charge, and even when you're not, don't get distracted by power, money, fame, or what others say—**STAY FOCUSED ON GOD!**

Worship (10 minutes)

Ask students to join you in focusing on God, praising and worshipping Him. Lead in two or three songs from the CD, especially "Dreams Will Come True."

Lead in prayer, asking for God's help to stay focused on Him.

Have students go to their small groups to go deeper into God's Word and for relationship building.

Q&A with the Professor

If you have time, there are three fun review questions on the DVD for this lesson (Q&A with the Professor, Lesson 5). You can have your own Ancient Ruins challenge by choosing one boy and one girl to be the contestants, or have the boys compete against the girls. Pause the DVD player after each question so students can answer. You can use this fun video clip in lots of ways: at the end of the large-group time, at the end of the small-group time while you're waiting for parents to arrive, just before the lesson Recap in the small-group time, or during the Pre-Start Activities. It's one more fun way to help students remember the important concepts in the lesson.

Review Questions

1. According to the video, what caused Eric to lose his focus?
 - a. **A bunny attack**
 - b. Someone calling for help
 - c. A really pretty girl
2. Josiah became king when he was
 - a. born.
 - b. **8 years old.**
 - c. friends with Eric.
3. Josiah
 - a. became a millionaire.
 - b. rode a camel.
 - c. **did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.**

Small Group

[30 minutes]

Scripture Study, Scripture Memory Discovery, Life Application, Recap

Scripture Study [15 minutes]

Hand out the *SuperStart!* magazines and pencils or pens. Have students turn to pages 24 and 25 and guess what the out-of-focus pictures are. Then ask students to turn to 2 Chronicles 34:1, 2 in their Bibles and ask for volunteers to read aloud the verses. Ask the following questions. Encourage all students to participate and be sure to give students time to think about the questions.

- **What's interesting about this brief summary of Josiah's life?** *(He became king when he was 8. The most important thing he did was to do right in God's eyes.)*
- **How do you think Josiah stayed focused on God?** *(maybe he had someone who helped him, maybe he prayed for help, maybe he knew what his ancestor David had done)*

Ask students to look again at the out-of-focus pictures.

- **How could any of these things or people keep you from focusing on God when you're in charge and even when you're not?** *(sports and music lessons take a lot of time, if I spend too much time listening to music or watching TV, if I hang around with friends who don't follow God)*
- **How can you STAY FOCUSED ON GOD?** *(set some goals, ask others to help me stay focused on God, pray, read my Bible, listen to Christian music, don't let other things distract me)*

Ask students to close their eyes to pray and focus on God for a full minute. Encourage them to praise God for how great He is, tell God how they feel about Him, and ask for God's help to stay focused on Him. Tell students when time is up.

Supplies

SuperStart! magazines, Bibles, paper, pencils or pens (optional: inexpensive magnifying glasses, permanent markers, Lesson 5 CD print files Challenge cards and Scripture memory reminder cards—print and cut out one of each per student)



Teacher Tip

Be sure to be sensitive to your students' reading abilities. Ask for volunteers to read aloud or be sure to call on those whom you know like to read aloud. Include reluctant readers by asking them to listen as you or others read Scripture aloud and let them answer questions.

Optional Activity

Ask students to spend two minutes focusing on 2 Chronicles 34:1, 2 trying to memorize it. When time is up, see how much students can recite. **Look what happens when you focus. Think what would happen if you really focused on God every day!**

Reminder

Last week, students were challenged to tell someone about Jesus' birth. Celebrate with those who have a good report. Encourage, don't embarrass, those who either forgot or who didn't have a good experience.

You may want to give each student a Lesson 5 Challenge card and Scripture memory reminder card to take home.

Collect the *SuperStart!* magazines for use in the following weeks.

Scripture Memory Discovery (5 minutes)

Our Scripture memory for the next several weeks is **2 Chronicles 34:1, 2**. Have students find these verses in their Bibles and ask for volunteers to read them aloud.

- **According to these verses, what was Josiah known for?** (*doing right, following God*)
- **As king, what do you think Josiah may have done that was right in the eyes of the Lord?** (*helped people follow God, was fair, was kind, didn't listen when people tried to get him to do wrong things, prayed, followed God's rules*)

It's cool that Josiah stayed focused on God even though he was so young. If Josiah can do it, it makes me think that you and I can do it too. What we're known for is what we do every day. Challenge students to mark 2 Chronicles 34:1, 2 in their Bibles, read it every day this week, and work on memorizing it to help them **STAY FOCUSED ON GOD**.

Life Application (5 minutes)

Ask students to share how their challenge from last week went. Get students' ideas about how they can **STAY FOCUSED ON GOD**. One suggestion you can make is that they start every day this week by reading 2 Chronicles 34:1, 2. Another idea is to give each student an inexpensive magnifying glass. Students can write on the lenses how they plan to stay focused on God, such as reading the Bible and praying every day. Remind students to come prepared next week to share what they did to **STAY FOCUSED ON GOD**.

Recap (5 minutes)

It could have been easy for King Josiah to get distracted and not focus on God. But Josiah chose to not get distracted by power, fame, money, or what others said. He chose to focus on God. Briefly share about a time when you got distracted from focusing on God, especially when you were a preteen. **When you're in charge like Josiah, and even when you're not, I hope you won't get distracted by power, money, fame, or what others say. I hope you'll remember to STAY FOCUSED ON GOD.**

Extra Time

As you have time, let students participate in one or more of the Extra-Time Activities on page 38.