Character Traits for September 15-29 is Attentiveness

Philippians 1:9-10, "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ"

Character: the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

Attentiveness: Showing the worth of a person or task by giving my undivided concentration.

Derivation: at •ten• tive •ness n 1: the state of being mindful or observant of what you are doing 2: being heedful of the comfort of others 3: offering attention to

Weekly Verse: Hebrews 12:1,2a "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, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith . . ."

Bible Story: The beggar in Acts 3:1-10 gives Peter and John his undivided attention.

Quote: "Give whatever you are doing and whoever you are with the gift of your attention."

Application: The next time you interact with your friends or family, I challenge you to remember the railroad crossing sign:

Stop
Put down what you are doing; everything else can wait. Nothing is as important, in that moment, as that other person.

Look
Look them in the eye. Nothing communicates importance and love more than direct eye contact.

Listen
Listening is more than just "hearing." We often hear what is going on around us, but listening takes more effort. It involves conscious effort to not only hear what is said, but to clarify what is meant and what you need to do in response.

Discussion Questions:
Can you think of a situation where being attentive might be the wrong thing to do?

What are some distractions you struggle with when trying to pay attention to someone else?

What do you assume about a person who they won't look you in the eye when they are speaking to you?