

News Story Summary

Milk-Bone® recently gave a “Dog of the Year” award. The “Milk-Bone Dog of the Year Honor” went to Todd, a golden retriever puppy and his owner, Paula Godwin. In July, when Todd was just six months old, he made the national news when he jumped between Godwin and a rattlesnake in Anthem, Arizona, protecting her from the rattlesnake. Instead of biting Godwin’s leg, the snake bit Todd on the face. Todd was taken to the animal hospital where he received anti-venom medicines, and he recovered. His brave, heroic actions in protecting his owner made the news, and the Milk-Bone company took note, honoring him with the award.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “puppy saves owner from rattlesnake”.)

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea, share the news story above. Then say: *We don’t know what goes on in a dog’s mind, but in that moment when the dog saw the snake, he willingly put his body between the snake and his owner, protecting her from danger. The dog’s focus was on someone else – his owner – and not on himself.* Explain that in today’s study, we will talk about submission and the difference between a self-oriented life and a God-oriented life.

Continue with following the instructions under Focus Attention.

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge idea under More Ideas, remind the group of the puppy who put his owner’s protection first, ahead of his own safety and comfort. Note that there may be times where we struggle with wanting to put ourselves first – seeking our own comfort or our own way first. Then break the group into pairs to discuss the first questions set on page 117 of the PSG: *Identify areas in your life in which you have trouble submitting to God. What actions can you take to improve in that area?*