

News Story Summary

On August 4th, Leon Grace graduated from Bowling Green State University (BGSU). At age 67, he had been taking classes on and off for more than 30 years. After high school, Grace started college. But he was also working jobs to support himself, and the jobs conflicted with the college classes he wanted to take. So the work schedule took priority. In 1984 he started attending classes at BGSU, where the professors and advisers worked with him to accommodate his job schedules. Today, Grace works as a paraprofessional with the special education classes in the Sylvania Schools district in Ohio. He started work with the school system as a custodian, but then moved to the job of paraprofessional – helping the special education students who need assistance in the classrooms, in the cafeteria, and on the buses. Rachel Flick is his adviser in the College of Arts and Sciences at BGSU. She says Grace has been dedicated and focused. "He is a very kind man and officially one of my all-time favorite students to work with." Now that he has his bachelor's degree in hand, Grace says he plans to pursue a master's degree.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term "Leon Grace graduates BGSU".)

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea, share the news story above. Note that Leon Grace's long road to a college degree is a display of perseverance. Then ask the questions printed in the introductory section of the Personal Study Guide or Daily Discipleship Guide: *In what situations have you found yourself forced to decide whether to persevere? What motivated you to keep going?*

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, remind the group of the news article about Leon Grace and his 30-year-road to a college degree. Point out that Leon Grace's persistent in working toward that college degree over a 30-year period showed that he kept the "end game" in mind along the way. Then follow the instructions under Challenge, leading the group in quiet reflection of the third question set under In My Context.