

News Story Summary

During a trip in July, a mother and her 9-year-old son from Texas plus a 9-year-old relative from Illinois, rented kayaks with a plan to explore Nicolet Bay in Peninsula State Park, Wisconsin. The three planned to paddle to Eagle Harbor. When they did not return, the rental company contacted authorities in the area and an intensive search was launched.

Fortunately the trio was rescued 15 hours later, after spending the night adrift in their kayaks on the waters of Green Bay. After the rescue, authorities praised the three explorers for two actions: 1) staying in the kayaks instead of getting in the water and 2) tethering their kayaks together.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “Austin kayakers rescued”.)

Focus Attention

Engage in conversation with group members as they arrive. Ask if any of them are kayakers, canoers, or boaters. Inquire about what they enjoy about being on the open water.

Summarize the story of the trio of kayakers who were rescued in Green Bay in July. Call attention to the two actions that rescuers noted after the group was safely brought to shore. Write these actions on the board.

Ask group members: *What was the value of remaining inside their kayaks? What was the value of tying the two kayaks together?*

Introduce today’s study by reading aloud the title and summary statement: *Pay Attention—Believers must diligently guard against drifting away from their confession of Jesus.*

Ask group members to keep these kayakers in mind—and the actions they took that may have helped save their lives—as we study today’s passage.

Challenge

Refer to the rescue story shared earlier. State: *The news report of the rescue of these kayakers doesn’t go into detail about how much, if any, experience they had before this adventure. However it’s obvious by their actions that they assessed their situation, used common sense, did not panic, and ultimately aided in their own rescue.*

Ask: *How do believers today benefit from remaining “inside” their commitment to Christ and “tethering” themselves together with other believers?*

Challenge group members to examine their current relationship with Jesus Christ and to ask themselves: *What actions am I taking to avoid drifting away from Jesus? What potential dangers am I avoiding? How do I identify the dangers that could cause me to drift from my commitment to follow Jesus? In nautical terms, am I anchored, drifting, or struggling? Why?*

Close with a time of silent prayer, asking God for wisdom to pay close attention to His Word and for strength and diligence to stay close to Him.