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Jehovah's Witnesses video slammed for threatening kids with death for not paying attention in church

The clip, meant to stress the importance of paying attention in church and meetings, has been criticized for insinuating that not fully focusing during such gatherings can result in dying, even connecting the concept to the story of Noah's Ark. JW.org has not yet responded to the backlash.

BY [LEE MORAN](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Monday, February 16, 2015, 8:05 AM

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Transit union urges bus drivers to slow down.



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A Jehovah's Witness promotional cartoon has been slammed for appearing to threaten children who don't pay attention in church with death.

Viewers have dubbed the controversial animated clip, [posted to YouTube by JW.org](#), as "stupid," "dumb" and "mind control."



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It begins with two youngsters attending a service with their parents.

A little boy plays with his car, while his sister almost falls asleep. Both are then told off for not focusing on what the preacher is saying.

The family arrives home and, as they sit down to eat, their mom asks what they learned at church.

"No sleeping at the meeting," replies the girl. Her sibling then grumpily adds, "No playing at the meeting."



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Their father then explains exactly why they should pay attention. "Imagine if Noah didn't pay attention when Jehovah explained how to build the Ark," he says.

The cartoon cuts to Noah playing on a video game and not listening to God's instructions before the sky goes dark and rain begins to fall.

He runs into a building which falls apart. The screen fills with water and the game floats by with "Game Over" written on it.

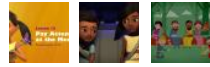
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JW.ORG/YOUTUBE

Critics have said a video appearing on JW.org threatens children with death if they do not pay attention in church.

The cartoon cuts back to the family, where the little boy is protesting that the story is wrong.

"That's right," his father tells him, adding, "Noah paid attention and it saved his life. Paying attention at the meetings can help save your life, too."

The family is then seen back at church, where the youngsters are seen keenly taking notes.

Commenters said that the clip appeared to threaten the children with going to church.

"These poor kids just want to be kids," [wrote one poster](#), while another added, "Pay attention in the meetings or you will die. Yeah great message."

JW.org has not commented on the reaction to the clip.

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