

Go the Distance

Bible Story: Go the Distance (Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin) • Acts 3:1–4:21

Bottom Line: Keep going even when it gets tough.

Key Question: What keeps you from finishing what you start?

Memory Verse: *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* Galatians 6:9 (NIRV)

Life App: Determination—Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Discussion Questions

- When was the last time you didn't finish something you started? What kept you from finishing?
- Sometimes we don't finish what we start because we simply get distracted. When do you get distracted or find yourself doing something else instead of the thing you're supposed to be doing?
- What can we do to help us when we want to give up?
- Who encourages you to show determination and finish what you start?

Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Sticky notes, pencils

What You Do:

- **Give** kids five sticky notes.
- **Ask** kids to write on each note an example of when is it tough to finish what you start.
- **Encourage** kids to think about the discussions from previous weeks.
 - What if you have been given a huge job? What makes it hard to finish it?
 - What makes it hard to finish a season playing on a team that is losing every game?
 - What makes it hard to stay motivated to finish homework when you know summer break will soon be here?
 - **Guide** kids to think about examples in their life when they have found it tough to finish what they started.

Day 5

What is an obstacle you often find yourself running into when it comes to finishing what you've started? Maybe you get. . .

Tired	(Isaiah 40:28-29)
Worried	(Philippians 4:6-7)
Overwhelmed	(Matthew 11:28)
Scared	(Psalm 27:1)
Anxious	(1 Peter 5:7)
Lazy	(Galatians 6:9)

Circle one or two things that you struggle with sometimes.

Now look up these verses next to those obstacles. Pick the verse that you feel like you need the most, and write it out somewhere you can see it. Whenever you find yourself starting to want to give up, read the verse and be encouraged: **You can keep going even when it gets tough.**

What keeps you
from finishing what
you start?

WEEK 3



Day 1

Go to Studio252.tv and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show.
(Click on Fun2Watch! then The So & So Show.)

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

SO & SO TOP 3

After watching, write one thing that . . .

1) YOU LIKED: _____

2) YOU LEARNED: _____

3) YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW: _____

PRETEEN

Day 2

Read Acts 3:1-11; 4:1-21

As you read Acts 3:1-11, circle all of the positive responses people had to the miracle Peter and John performed.

Then skip down and read Acts 4:1-21. Circle all the negative responses the religious leaders had to Peter and John's teachings. Look for all the ways they questioned their authority, threatened them and tried to stop them.

A lot changed in a short amount of time, didn't it? Peter and John went from teaching and healing to being imprisoned.

But did that stop Peter and John? Go back and re-read Acts 4:19 and 20 to find the answer.

In short, no. Peter and John kept going even when it was tough.

They knew that everyone needed to know about Jesus, so even when they were threatened, arrested and thrown in jail, they kept going. Talk about determination!

Day 3

What is something you're in the middle of right now?

- Maybe you're practicing for an upcoming music recital or dance recital and you haven't gotten it quite perfected.
- Your sports team has playoffs coming up and you need to practice more.
- You have some big tests around the corner and you're not sure you're prepared.



How do you feel when you think about your goal? Draw your emotions in the blank emoji face.



How do you feel when you think about the things that are making it tough right now?



Lastly, what will it feel like to keep going even when it's tough?

Now, talk to God about it. Share with Him what is going on and how things are getting tough. Tell Him about the things that make you sad, scared, mad, or worried. Ask Him to help you to keep going even when it's tough.

Day 4

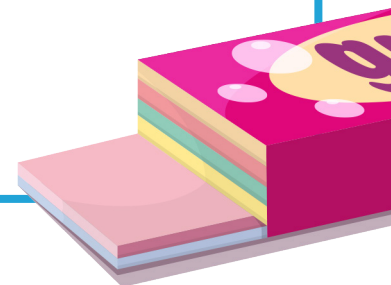
What's something that is holding you back from finishing something important—the thing prayed about yesterday?

Today you're going to build in some accountability in your life to help you keep going even when it gets tough. First though, find yourself on this scale. Be honest: where are you when it comes to finishing what you've started? Make a mark on the line representing where you are right now compared to your goal.

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START (OBSTACLE) (OBSTACLE) FINISH

Then fill in the blanks some of the things that are in between you and the finish line—obstacles that might make it tough to finish. Lastly, find a friend you can be honest with and show them the diagram. Talk through the obstacles in your path, and ask your friend to pray with you and for you. Also, invite them to check in with you in the coming weeks to see if you're moving past those obstacles to finish what you've started.



MAY 2020

PRETEEN



WEEK THREE

PETER AND JOHN ARE TAKEN TO THE SANHEDRIN • ACTS 3:1-4:21



ASK THIS:

WHAT KEEPS YOU
FROM FINISHING WHAT
YOU START?



REMEMBER THIS:

"Let us not become tired
of doing good. At the right
time we will gather a crop
if we don't give up."
GALATIANS 6:9, NIV



DO THIS:



Do you think that following Jesus means things will be easy? When you try to live the way Jesus taught us, things will get hard! But the awesome thing is that you don't have to tough it out on your own. When you follow Jesus, God promises to give you the power of His Spirit to keep going. Pray that God will give you the power of His Spirit this week to keep going, even when things get tough.

DETERMINATION:

DECIDING IT'S WORTH IT TO FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED

MAY 2020

PRETEEN



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HIGH HOPES

By Esther Gray

What do you want your family to look like or feel like 10-15 years from now?

As a parent, you get the extraordinary privilege, and incredible pressure, of creating your own family culture for your kids. When my husband and I started our parenting journey, we decided to make some informal goals for our family (these are not written anywhere, but they could be). We like to revisit them every time an important decision comes up in our lives.

We ask ourselves these three things:

What kind of parent do we want our kids to have?

What kind of relationship do we want between our kids?

How do we want our family to react in times of stress?

These three things we knew we can work on! Three things, that even in the midst of the imperfection of everyday life, we can still learn and teach our kids. I wanted to create and maintain a culture for our family.

- We want to be the kind of parents who will listen, not judge, and not freak out at every little thing.
- We want to be the kind of parents who teach our boys how to deal with fear in a healthy way.

- We want to be parents who will love no matter WHAT.
- We want to be parents who do not "fight" in front of the kids.
- We want to be parents who express our love to each other at home.
- We want our kids to have the best relationships. Although we do not have complete control over this, we want to make sure we always encourage, love, and respect each other.
- And lastly, we try to help our kids to trust God no matter how hopeless a situation may seem.

These things we continue to work on for our family. We have realized that when we make decisions based on these things, we work towards a family that 10-15 years from now will love each other, will trust each other, and will trust God no matter what.

What are your goals for your family?

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