

# 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.

**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.

## 1. Early Arriver

**What You Need:** Paper, pencils

**What You Do:**

- Give kids each one piece of paper and a pencil.
- Instruct kids to draw as many squares on their paper as they can until you tell them to stop.
  - If they think they've filled their paper, explain that they can draw a square inside another square or the squares can overlap. They don't have to all be separate.

## 2. Stand Them Up; Knock Them Down

**What You Need:** Dominoes or other similar rectangular(ish) objects that can be set up vertically

**What You Do:**

- Quickly show kids how to stand several dominoes up on their ends in a row and then knock them down.
- Give your child about 20 dominoes.
- Groups must line up a certain number of dominoes (your call on how many) before knocking them down.
- If they accidentally knock them down too soon, they must start over.
- Repeat as many times as you wish, telling them a different number of dominoes to set up each time.

**What You Say:**

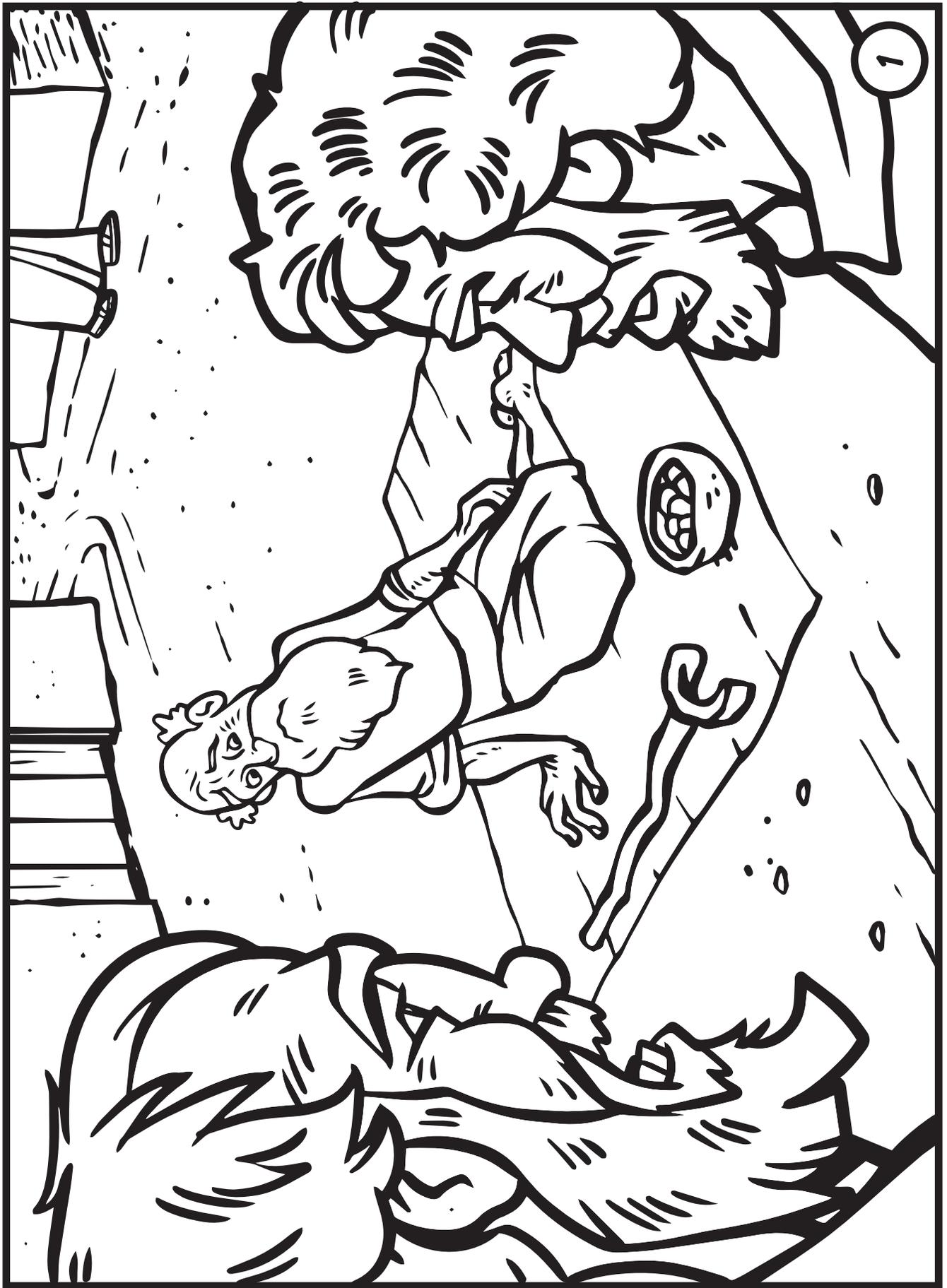
"Whew! That was tough! It's so frustrating when you ALMOST had enough dominoes lined up, and then you accidentally knocked them down. But you had determination and kept going! **[Transition] Let's watch today's Bible Story, where we'll hear all about what we should do when things get tough.**"

## 3. Bible Story Pictures

**What You Need:** "Bible Story Pictures" Activity Pages, crayons, wall tape

**What You Do:**

- Hand out the Bible Story Pictures.
- As kids color their pictures, ask them what's happening in each scene. (Use the list of pictures below if kids don't remember the story details that are being depicted in their picture.)
- Work together to put the pictures in order.
- Retell the story together, using the pictures.
  1. Peter and John see a man lying on a mat.
  2. Peter takes the man's hand.



**What to Do:**

Print one set of pictures for each small group.

**Bible Story Pictures 1/8**

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**What to Do:**

Print one set of pictures for each small group.

**Bible Story Pictures 2/8**

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**What to Do:**

Print one set of pictures for each small group.

**Bible Story Pictures 3/8**

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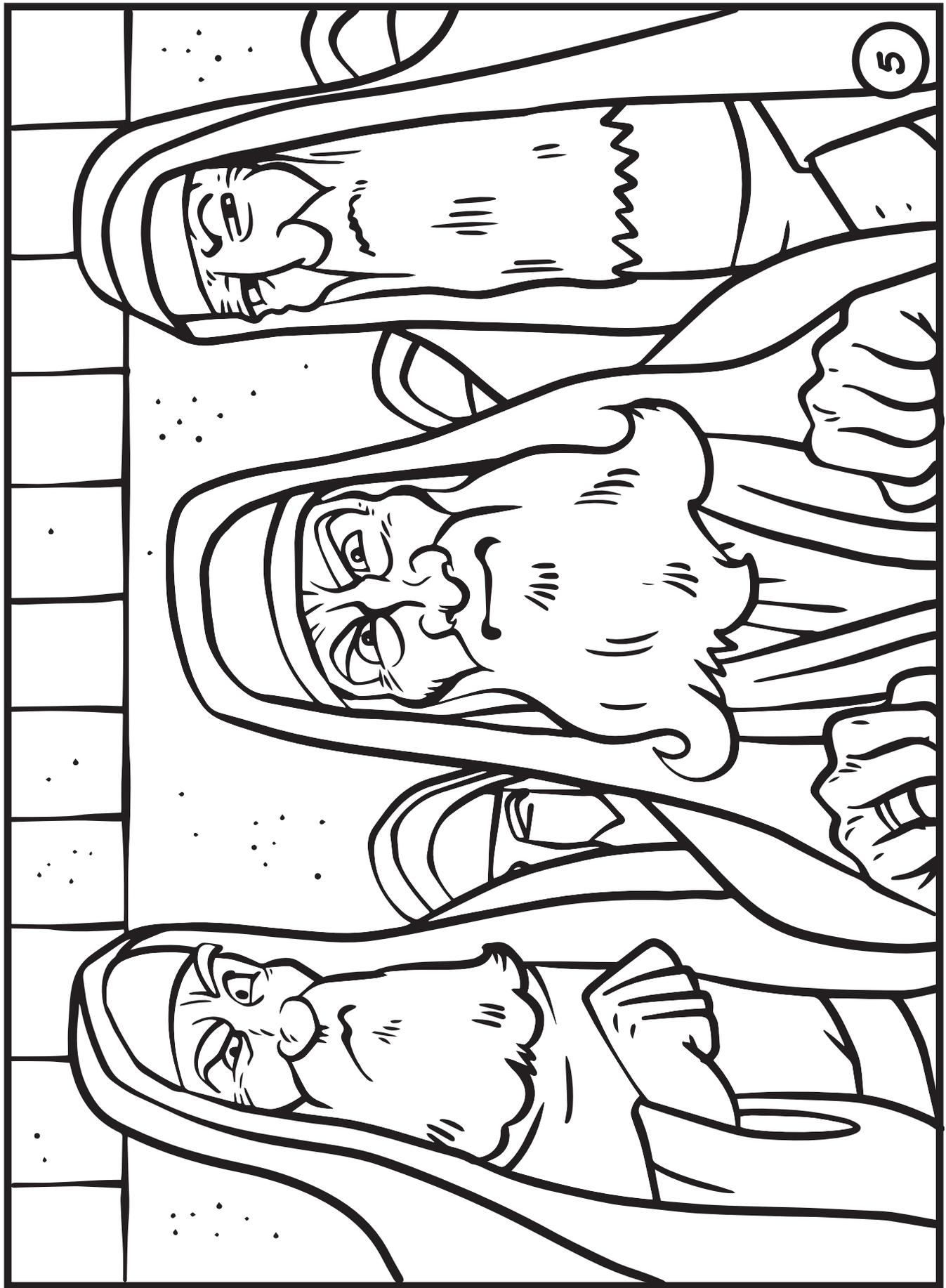


**What to Do:**

Print one set of pictures for each small group.

**Bible Story Pictures 4/8**

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**What to Do:**

Print one set of pictures for each small group.

**Bible Story Pictures 5/8**

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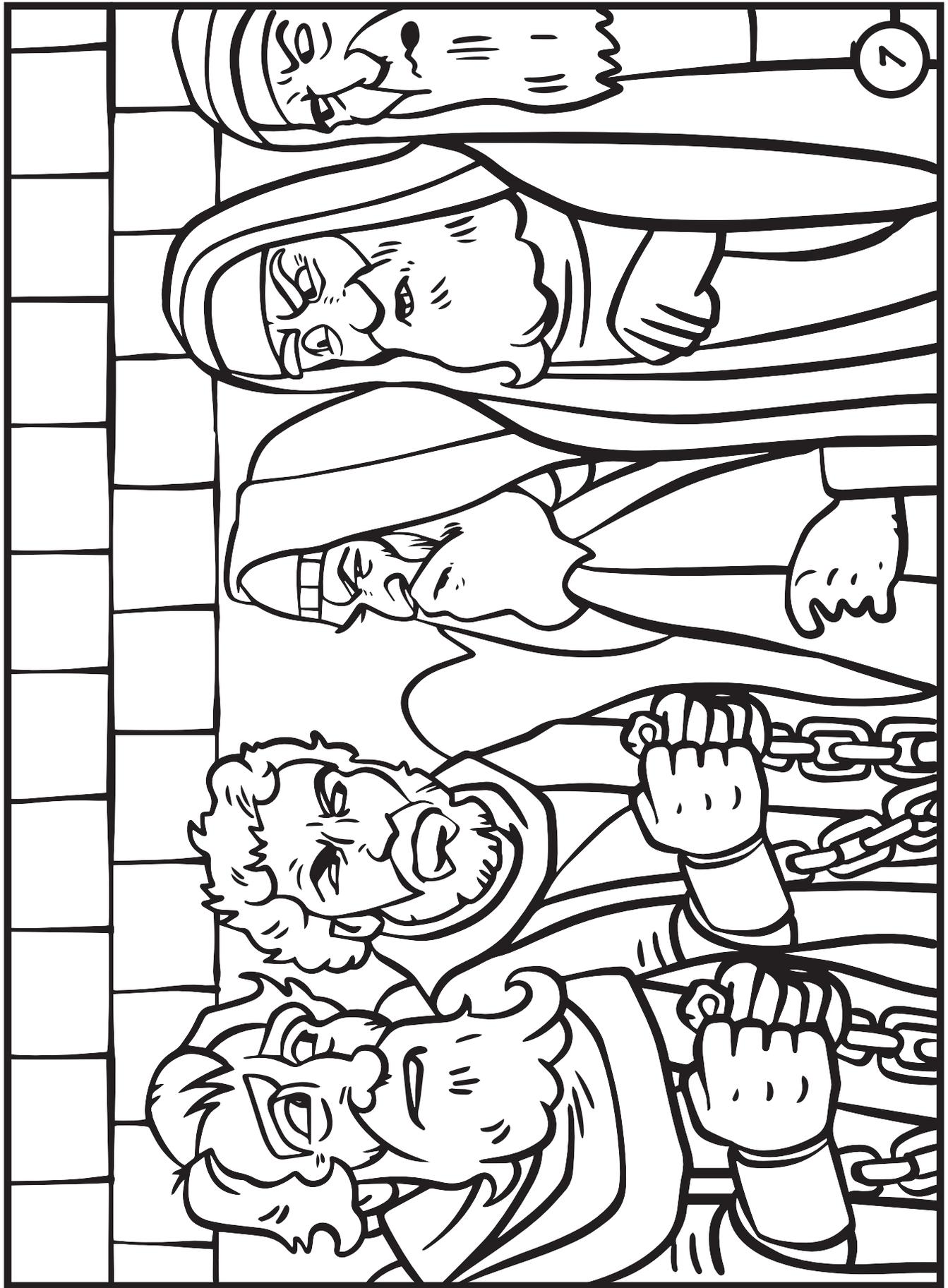


**What to Do:**

Print one set of pictures for each small group.

**Bible Story Pictures 6/8**

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**What to Do:**

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**Bible Story Pictures 7/8**

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**What to Do:**

Print one set of pictures for each small group.

**Bible Story Pictures 8/8**

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# DETERMINATION

deciding it's  
worth it to  
finish what  
you started

WEEK  
**Three**

2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

## Read Psalm 23:3-4

## DAY 1

Think about the last time you played a game of tag. At the beginning of the game, how did you feel? And what about at the end?

**When it comes to following God, there is some good news.** When we're tired of doing the right thing, God will guide us with new strength. And when things are really hard and it seems like everything is working against us, God promises to guide and comfort us.

Grab some sticky notes. Break today's verse up into 3- or 4-word phrases, writing each phrase on a sticky note. Stick them on the floor to create a path. Step on the notes as you read the verse aloud. Spend some time thanking God for leading you and giving you the determination you need to keep going even when it gets tough.

## Read James 1:12

## DAY 2

Wouldn't it be so awesome if every time you completed a big job or task, someone handed you a beautiful jewel covered crown?

That's not the kind of crown today's verse is talking about. The crown here is life, eternal life, forever with God. When you trust in Jesus as Savior, you can keep going with determination even when things get tough. Even when we're the only doing the right thing. God promises that one day we will be with Him forever in a perfect place. And that's way better than a crown that could be stolen or lost.

Grab a large piece of paper, draw the outline of a crown and cut it out. Write out the words of today's verse on one side and decorate the other. Bring the ends together and staple to secure.

**Ask Jesus to help you follow Him so that you can keep going even when it gets tough!**

## Read Galatians 6:9

DAY 3

Do you remember our definition for determination? Determination is deciding it's worth it to finish what you've started. That's easier said than done right? Because sometimes we get tired. Sometimes the task ahead seems impossibly big.

What if you took a cue from Anna in *Frozen 2* and simply chose the next right thing? In the song, Anna sings about not looking too far ahead and making the next right choice.

Anna sang this song because she felt completely alone.

**But when it comes to following God, we are never alone.**

Maybe instead of thinking about the great big thing in front of you, you should start smaller instead. Just do the next right thing—the thing right in front of you. Ask God to remind you that He is with you every step of the way so that you can keep going, even when it's tough.

## Read Philippians 3:13-14

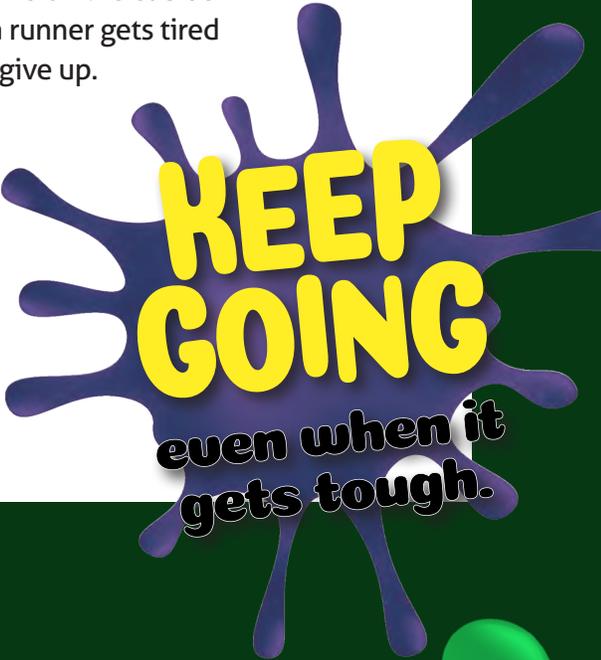
DAY 4

Following Jesus is a bit like running a tough race. The twists and turns on the course a runner faces are like the hard things that happen to us. Just like a runner gets tired and has to push on, we have to keep going even when we'd rather give up.

With an adult's permission, challenge yourself to run around the block. If that feels fairly easy, challenge yourself to run around the block again.

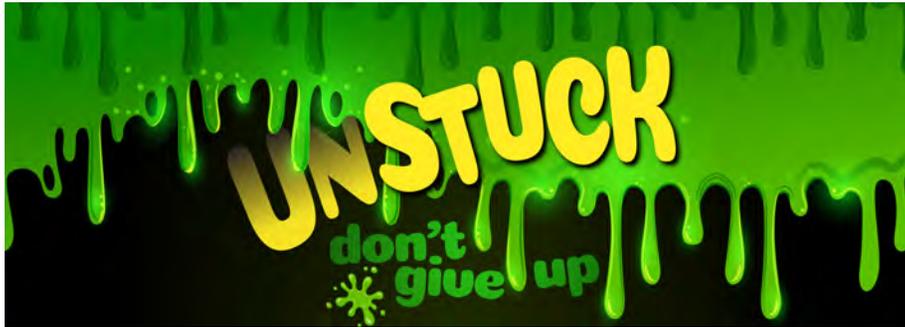
**Ask God to help you push forward with determination.**

**He will help you even when it gets tough.**



**KEEP  
GOING**

**even when it  
gets tough.**



WEEK THREE

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



SAY THIS:

KEEP GOING EVEN WHEN IT GETS TOUGH.



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



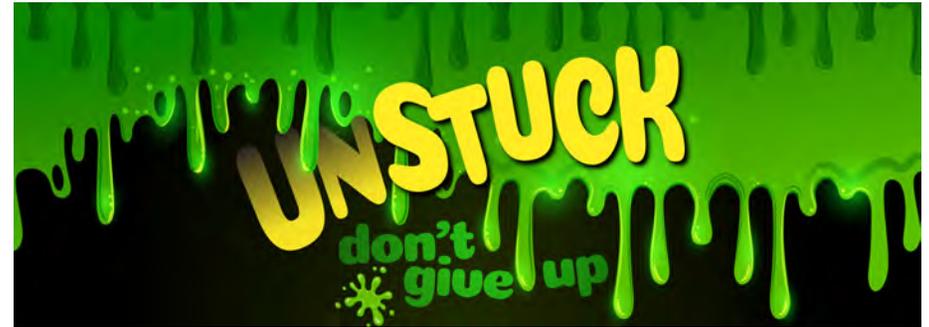
DO THIS:



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



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DETERMINATION:

DECIDING IT'S WORTH IT TO FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED

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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