

Keep Holding On

Bible Story: Keep Holding On (Stephen) • Acts 6:1–7:60

Bottom Line: Keep going because God knows the end of the story.

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 can trust God no matter what.

1. Roundabout Story

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Have your child sit with you.
- Start telling a story by saying two or three sentences and then clap once.
- Examples of story starters:
 - One day, a boy named Carlos woke up and his fingers had turned into carrots! He didn't know what to do!
 - It was a normal day. Evangeline woke up, got ready for school, and hopped into the backseat of the car. BUT THEN . . .
- Direct your child to add a few more sentences to the story until they hear you clap.
- Keep going until the story devolves into absolute silliness.
- If you have time, start a new story.

What You Say:

"That was such a silly and roundabout story! We had no idea where it was going to go or how it was going to end. In fact, I still don't think it ended! We don't know the end of the story. **[Transition]** Let's watch today's Bible Story, where we'll hear about someone who knows the end of EVERY story!"

2. The End of the Verse

What You Need: "Memory Verse Phrases" (Activity Pages), Bibles, paper, pencils

What You Do:

- Shuffle each set of phrases, and place a set on the floor.
- Lead to put the verse in order.
- While they are putting the verse in order, get out a Bible and a half sheet of paper.
- If they are struggling to put the phrase in order, challenge them to write it on the blank half sheet of paper. If needed, they can look it up in the Bible.

What You Say:

"You were missing the end of the verse in this game, but you knew it anyway! Because you've been practicing this verse all month, you knew the end of the verse. God doesn't need to practice to know everything there is to know about everything—including the end to everybody's story and the story of the entire world! That makes me so excited, because I know that He is in control of everything. It helps me to keep going, even when things seem impossible or tough. **[Bottom Line]** Keep going because God knows the end of the story."

“Let us not

become tired

What to Do:

Print and cut apart. Provide two sets for each small group.

Memory Verse Phrases, NIV 1/4

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of doing good.

At the

What to Do:

Print and cut apart. Provide two sets for each small group.

Memory Verse Phrases, NIV 2/4

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right time

we will gather

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Memory Verse Phrases, NIV 3/4

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we don't

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Memory Verse Phrases, NIV 4/4

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“Let us not

become weary

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for at the

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reap a harvest

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DETERMINATION

*deciding it's
worth it to
finish what
you started*

WEEK
Four
2nd-3rd Grade

Read 2 Chronicles 20:17

DAY 1

When you receive a new book, do you flip to the last page and read the ending first? Reading the ending would ruin the story! When it comes to following Jesus, knowing the end is a good thing. Why? Because God has already had a plan to make everything right. In the end, God wins!

That was true for God's people in 2 Chronicles. God told them not to worry, that the battle had already been won. The next morning, God's army took their battle positions but instead of charging toward the enemy, they begin to praise God. The opposing army became confused and turned on one another. God won the battle just as He said He would.

Sometimes we forget that we already know the end of the story. **We don't have to be afraid or lose hope.** God is with us and there isn't anything too big for Him. We can keep going, keep moving forward with determination because God knows the end of the story.

Ask God to help you remember that with Him on your side, you win! So you can keep going knowing He is with you.

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:13

DAY 2

What happens when you get tired? Are you cranky? Do you push through it or do you fall asleep the minute you sit down somewhere?

Everyone gets tired. Our bodies need rest. But the kind of tired this verse is talking about doesn't involve a pillow and a comfy blanket. This kind of tired happens when doing the right thing doesn't seem to be getting you anywhere. This tired happens when everyone else is doing the wrong thing or when it seems like no one is paying attention to your wise choices anyway.

Sometimes it just seems easier or even more fun to follow the crowd. That's when you have to tap into determination. Just like the end of a race is way more important than the beginning, we have to keep making choices that honor God and others. Because God sees every good deed, every kind word, every act of obedience. He knows when you're tired and when you ask for His help, He will give you the strength you need to keep making the wise choice.

Write out the words for today's verse on a card and place it near where you sleep. As you go to sleep tonight, ask God to help you keep doing the right thing with determination.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:57

DAY 3

When someone helps you, do you remember to say, **"Thank You!"**
Saying thank you is important.

One of the keys to determination—to sticking with something to the end—is thankfulness. Why? Because God has already done the most amazing thing ever by sending His only Son Jesus. Following God isn't just about doing the right thing so we can be seen as "good." Following God and obeying Him is a big way we show Him that we love and trust Him. When we live the way God wants us to live, we are showing gratitude for all He's done for us by sending Jesus.

So let's practice! Think of one way you can thank God (besides just saying "Thank you"). You could write God a song or poem. You could thank God by choosing to do one thing tomorrow that He's asked you to do that's really hard for you. Let's thank God for the determination He gives us to keep going!

Read Ephesians 6:10

DAY 4

According to today's verse, who can make you strong?

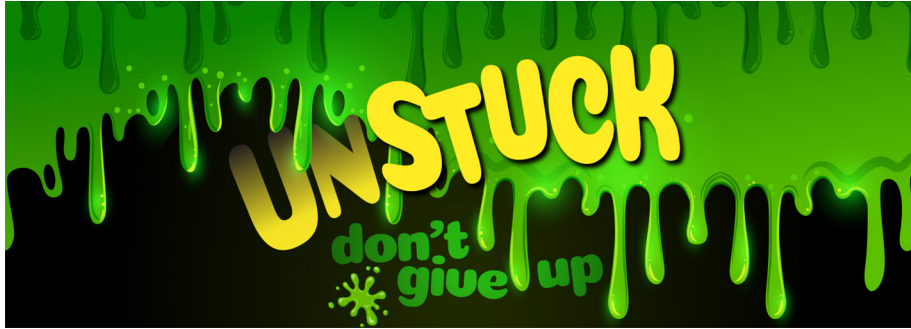
God is the one who can give you the strength you need to keep going. His power is unlimited. Remember, He's the one who created the entire world. He's the one who sent His only Son so that you could have a relationship with Him, forever.

You can depend on God—put all your trust and confidence in Him—because He loves you. There isn't anything you will face tomorrow or the next day or twenty years from now that is too big or too hard for God.

How many chairs are there around the table at your house? Grab that many index cards or scraps of paper. Write out the words of today's verse on each one, then tape them to the back of each chair. Every time you or a family member sits in one of those chairs this week, talk about how you can depend on God's mighty power just like you trust that chair to hold you up. Spend some time thanking God for His mighty power that helps you keep going with determination!



KEEP GOING
because God knows
the end of the story.



WEEK FOUR

STEPHEN • ACTS 6:1-7:60



SAY THIS:

KEEP GOING BECAUSE
GOD KNOWS THE END
OF THE STORY.

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



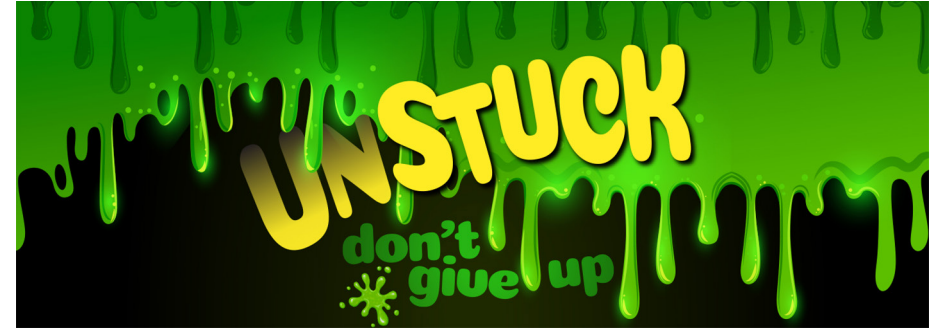
DO THIS:



Play a game by telling your kids
to think of a scale from 1-10.
One being the easiest and 10 the
absolute hardest. Think of things
that require determination and rate
that on the scale. For example,
learning a new instrument is a level
6 or not eating candy for a day is
level 2. Afterwards, ask them what
is something they are determined
to finish by the end of the school
year or summer.

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

DETERMINED PARENTS

By Carey Nieuwhof

One of the reasons it's so critical to help our kids live a determined life is that almost nothing happens on the first try. Fast forward twenty years and imagine your son or daughter grown up. Their character (including their determination) will directly impact what happens at work, at home, and in their families.

My friend Gary Reniecke shared some statistics from the world of sales that tell quite a story about determination. Studies have shown that:

48% of sales people never follow up with a prospect.
25% of sales people make a 2nd contact and stop.
12% of sales people make three contacts and stop.
Only 10% of sales people make more than four contacts.

Why does this matter? Well, consider this:

2% of sales are made on the 1st contact.
3% of sales are made on the 2nd contact.
5% of sales are made on the 3rd contact.
10% of sales are made on the 4th contact.
80% of sales are made on the 5th to 12th contact.

Whether our kids ever choose sales as a career is beside the point. The point is determination and persistence pays

off. And that shouldn't surprise us. Isn't it true that, even as adults, few of us learn the lessons we need to learn on the first go-round? Isn't it true most things don't happen without some level of determination? Mastering a skill, developing relationships, growing faith and character, achieving a dream . . .

Most great things take time. And without determination, we'll never see them realized. As a parent, you might need to become determined to teach values like determination. Rarely will a child pick up on what's important on first try, and even if they embrace it early, it's easy to get discouraged and follow a different course down the road. This isn't just true in instilling determination in your child—it's true of virtually everything that's important.

All of this to simply say this: Don't get discouraged if you didn't succeed this week, or this month. So next week, next month, and next year, chip away at determination and encourage your family to do the same. Down the road, the payoff stands to be significant.

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