

UNSTUCK

DON'T GIVE UP

PARENT GUIDE

[Younger Elementary]

Use this guide to help your family learn how God can help us live with determination.

Week of May 17

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, NIV

LIFE APP

DETERMINATION:

Deciding
it’s worth it to finish
what you started

BIBLE STORY

Peter and John Are
Taken to the Sanhedrin
(Acts 3:1–4:21)

BOTTOM LINE

Keep going even
when it gets tough.

ACTIVITY: Signs of Encouragement

WHAT YOU NEED:

plain copy paper; craft supplies, such as markers, crayons, stickers, glue, glitter, etc.

WHAT YOU DO:

Talk with your kid about Peter and John from today’s story. Remind your kid that Peter and John didn’t give up on their mission, even though the religious leaders tried to stop them. Then lead your kid to make encouragement posters for Peter and John, similar to the kinds of signs spectators hold up at races and other sporting events. Prompt them to think about what might have helped Peter and John keep going. What words of encouragement do they think Peter and John would have wanted to hear or see as they went on trial for telling others about Jesus?

For some extra fun, get 2 cups of dry cornstarch and 1 cup of water. Pour both ingredients into a mixing bowl and let your kid mix it with their hands! As they play with the goo, talk about how we can sometimes feel “stuck” when something gets hard and we want to give up. But God wants us to keep going even when it gets tough!

Talk about the Bible story:

- o **What mission did Peter and John need determination to carry out?** (Spreading the word about Jesus)
- o **What did they do on their way into the temple?** (Through the power of the Holy Spirit, they healed a man who couldn’t walk)
- o **How did the religious leaders respond to the man’s healing?** (They were angry; they arrested Peter and John)
- o **Did Peter and John stop preaching about Jesus after they were told not to?** (No; they kept going and spreading the message of Jesus)
- o **What is something that is hard for you?**
- o **What can you do to find the determination to keep going even when that thing gets really hard?**

PRAYER

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible Story or sometime before bed tonight:

“God, we know that You can help us keep going when things get tough—just like You helped Peter and John. There are times when it’s tough for us to finish what we’ve started. There are times when we get tired or frustrated, or we’re confused about what to do next. Help us to remember that You are always with us! Help us to decide that it’s worth it to finish what we’ve started—and give us the strength to keep going. Amen!”



PARENT
CUE

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Preteen • Week of May 17th



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KEY QUESTION

What keeps you from
finishing what you start?

ACTIVITY: Stick the Landing

WHAT YOU NEED:

index cards; duct tape; marbles / ping pong balls / or small bouncy balls

WHAT YOU DO:

Look up today’s Bible story in Acts 3:1–4:21. Ask your kid to choose five main events from the story, and write each one on an index card. As they do that, on an uncarpeted floor, place a piece of duct tape (about 3 feet long), sticky side up. Secure the tape to the floor using a small piece on each end of the tape line. When your kid is finished writing the main events, stick them in order along the edge of the tape, but not covering up the tape. (Leave most of the sticky side available.) Spread them out so they take up most of the length of the tape.

Then challenge your kid to stand about 3 feet away from the tape line, and roll the marble/ping pong ball/bouncy ball toward the tape, aiming to get the marble/ball to stick to the tape where the first index card is. The challenge is to stick the marble/ball at each index card, in order of the story.

Talk about the Bible story:

- o **Why were Peter and John arrested?** (For healing a man in the name of God; for preaching about Jesus)
- o **What do you think made it tough for Peter and John to continue their mission?** (The religious leaders were against their mission; it’s hard to have determination when someone is trying to stop you)
- o **When was the last time you didn’t finish what you started? What kept you from finishing?**
- o **What are some things we can do to help us remember to trust God and finish what we’ve started?**

PRAYER

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible Story or sometime before bed tonight:

“God, we know that You can help us keep going when things get tough—just like You helped Peter and John. There are times when it’s tough for us to finish what we’ve started. There are times when we get tired or frustrated, or we’re confused about what to do next. Help us to remember that You are always with us! Help us to decide that it’s worth it to finish what we’ve started—and give us the strength to keep going. Amen!”



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