



INTRODUCTION

In **Acts 6:8 7:60**, we find a somber moment in the life in the early church. Stephen, a church leader, was arrested and put on trial for teaching about Jesus. Even as he was being stoned to death, Stephen showed determination. He boldly shared how Jesus was the Savior God promised from the beginning. Stephen was willing to die for his faith because he believed that Jesus was truly the Son of God.

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BIBLE STORY

Stephen — Acts 6:1 - 7:60

MEMORY VERSE

“Let us not become tired of doing what 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.

BOTTOM LINE

Keep going because God knows the end of the story.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

UNSTUCK

DON'T GIVE UP

Parent Cue • Preteen • Week of May 24th



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

First, watch this video:

<https://bit.ly/PreteenUnstuckWeek4>

Then follow up with the activity below!

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

Stephen
(Acts 6:1–7:60)

KEY QUESTION

When were you scared
but kept going?

ACTIVITY: Remember What’s True

WHAT YOU NEED:

Container, 26 small slips of paper, 1 marker per person, 1 sheet of paper per person

WHAT YOU DO:

Before you get started, write the letters of the alphabet on the 26 slips of paper and mix them up in the container. Give each person a sheet of paper and a marker. Talk about the main points of Stephen’s story:

- 1) The religious leaders convinced some men to lie about Stephen.
- 2) The leaders had Stephen arrested and put on trial.
- 3) Stephen told everyone about Jesus.
- 4) The leaders were angry and threw stones at Stephen to kill him.

Emphasize that Stephen showed determination because he knew God, and he knew that God was with him. Take turns pulling a letter out of the container. Ask everyone to write down something that’s true about God, starting with the letter that was pulled. Share your answers with everyone after each turn. Talk about why you wrote a particular word or phrase. Finish up by asking: how can these things that are true about God help you keep going—especially when things are difficult and you don’t know what’s going to happen?

Talk about the Bible story:

- o **Who was Stephen?** (a leader in the church who got in trouble for talking about Jesus)
- o **Why do you think Stephen shared all the stories from the Old Testament?** (Those stories helped point people to Jesus.)
- o **How did the religious leaders respond to Stephen’s message?** (They became angry and threw stones at him.)
- o **Why do you think Stephen was determined to keep going even though people were getting very angry with him?**
- o **When we feel scared, how does it help us to remember that God is always with us?**
- o **Talk about a time when you were scared, but you chose to keep going.**

PRAYER

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

“Dear God, You are so awesome and amazing! You know *everything*—and that is SO cool! We know that **we can trust You no matter what**, because You know the end of the story. Please help us to remember that when we face difficult situations in life. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



PARENT
CUE

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

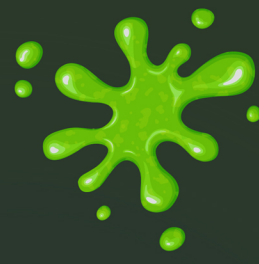
- Why do you think Stephen was determined to keep going even though people were getting very angry with him? What helped Stephen to keep going?
- How does knowing who God is and that He is always with us help us to keep going even when we are scared?
- When was a time you were scared but kept going?

QUESTIONS?

Contact us with any questions you have about this activity guide. Please note, we can best support you during the week (Monday thru Friday). No question is too big or too small. We're here to help! With love, Elisa Booker and Danielle Swink

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, NlrU



When were
you scared but
kept going?

Day 5

Have you ever been reading a book that was a little scary, so you skipped to the end just to make sure that everything would turn out okay?

**We can't do that in real life,
but we can do something even better.**

We can trust God, who knows the end of the story, and who has promised He will work things out for our best in the end. Paul writes this in Romans 8:28: "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him," (NIRV).

That doesn't mean things will always turn out what we want them to now, but it does mean that even when things aren't going well, we can trust that there's more going on than we can see or understand, and that God is going to carry us through no matter what.

Grab a sheet of paper and cut out a bookmark. Then write the words from Romans 8:28 on it and decorate it however you want. Whenever you're wishing you could skip ahead to the end of a situation remember that you're being held by the One who is writing the story, and that's even better.



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: _____

Day 2

Read Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60

After you read Acts 6:8-15 and Acts 7:51-60, go back and look at all the verses in between. It's a lot, but it's basically a summary of God's Story. Stephen believed so strongly in Jesus as God's plan for the world that he shared the whole story, knowing his life was at risk.

The first 50 verses of Acts 7 are determination in action. Stephen didn't back down. He may have been scared, but he kept going. And we see in verses 56 and 57 that before he even went to heaven, Stephen was blessed with a vision from God: Jesus, welcoming him into heaven:

"But he was full of the Holy Spirit. He looked up to heaven and saw God's glory. He saw Jesus standing at God's right hand. 'Look!' he said. 'I see heaven open. The Son of Man is standing at God's right hand,'" (NIRV).

Stephen didn't know the end of the story, but he trusted the God who did, and that very day, he was welcomed by his Savior to spend forever with God.

Day 3

All month long, you've prayed for determination for yourself. But you probably also know some other people who are struggling to keep going. Who do you know that is facing a hard journey—perhaps because of sickness, death, losing their job, or having to move? If you can't think of anyone, just ask an adult—they'll likely know of someone who you can pray for. Use the sample prayer below to ask God to help them to keep going even when they don't know the end of the story.

"Dear God, please be with _____ who is having a really hard time because of _____. I imagine they are scared because _____. It's so hard when we don't know how things will turn out. . . but we do believe that you know how things will turn out. You know the end of the story, and we can trust you no matter what. Please help _____ to remember that, and to keep going even when they're scared. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen."

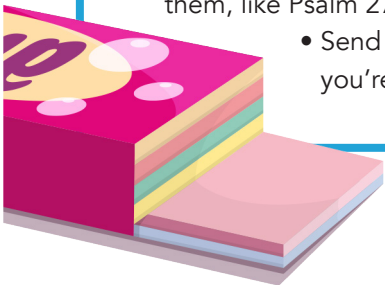
Day 4

Who is the person you prayed for yesterday? Today you're going to encourage them to keep going. There are lots of ways you can do this.

- Make them a card. Consider including a Bible verse to encourage them, like Psalm 27:1.
- Send them a text or email and just let them know you're praying for them.

- Give them a call so they know you're thinking of them.
- Bake them some cookies or drop off some flowers at their house.

Pick a few of these things. Whenever someone is going through something scary, it means so much to know that other people are cheering you on. No matter how you choose to encourage your friend, be sure and continue to pray for them to keep going.





WEEK FOUR

STEPHEN • ACTS 6:1-7:60



ASK THIS:

WHEN WERE YOU SCARED
BUT KEPT GOING?



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:



Start conversation with your preteen by asking them these questions while in the car, "What is something that is tough to finish right now? What keeps you from finishing?"

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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