



BIBLE STORY

Go the Distance (Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin)

Acts 3:1–4:21

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.

BOTTOM LINE

God gives you what you need to keep going.

BIBLE STORY LINK

[ELEMENTARY VIDEO](#)

STORY OVERVIEW

In Acts 3:1-4:21 we see that Jesus' mission isn't going to be that easy. Peter healed someone in the name of Jesus and caused quite a stir. Peter and John used this moment to share the message of Jesus. Soon though, the religious leaders arrested them and had them stand trial. Peter and John showed determination. They made it clear that no matter what happened to them, they would continue sharing Jesus with others.

Bottom Line: Keep going even when it gets tough. Even when we follow Jesus, we're not promised an easy life. We are promised that God will be with us. Just because a situation we face is difficult, doesn't mean it's time to give up. We pray that we will learn to lean into the power of God to find the determination we need to keep going.

Moves Unstuck

What You Need: Music

What You Do:

- You will be playing "freeze dance."
- Show off your coolest moves until you hit pause on the music.
- When the music is paused, everyone should freeze however posed (even if it's an awkward or difficult position).
- When you un-pause the music, everyone goes back to dancing.
- Continue to play as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

"I knew we had a pretty cool family, but I had no idea we had those kinds of moves in us! Did anyone get stuck having to freeze on a super hard move? (Allow time for responses.) Great job remaining frozen! **Today, we're going to learn about some people who really could have gotten themselves stuck but instead, they decided to keep going. Let's watch our video and find out!**"

WATCH THE ELEMENTARY VIDEO

Holy Spirit Power

What You Need: "Holy Spirit Power" Activity page, tape, ball

What You Do:

Recap the Bible story using the questions below.

1. Who did Peter and John run into when they approached the temple? (A man lying on a mat)
2. Why was the man lying on a mat? (He wasn't able to walk)
3. What did Peter say they could do for the man? (Heal him by the power of the Holy Spirit)
4. What happened to the man? (He was healed and was able to walk)
5. How did the man respond once he was healed? (He started walking and leaping and praising God!)
6. How did the religious leaders respond because of the man's healing? (They did not like it)
7. What happened to Peter and John? (They were arrested)
8. What did the religious leaders ask Peter and John not to do? (Speak about Jesus)
9. Did Peter and John stop talking about Jesus? (No)

Once you have reviewed the story, practice the motions on the "Holy Spirit Power" Activity Page.

- Help (hand on forehead like you're feeling faint)
- Heal (both arms up showing muscles)
- Captain (salute)

Have your family stand in a circle

- Place a ball in the middle of the circle.
- You will compete against each other to be the first to grab the ball in the middle.
- Start by calling out various motions, in random order, for example: "Captain, captain, heal, power!"
- Each person quickly does the motions you call out.
- But when you call "Power!" everyone must attempt to grab the ball in the middle before another person does.
- Play as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

"I can tell you all were really paying attention to today's story! Peter and John were faced with challenging people and really tough situations, but the Holy Spirit helped them keep going even when it gets tough. How do you think they felt when they got arrested? (Allow time for responses.) What about when they were ordered not to preach in Jesus' name, but they did it anyway? Do you think Peter and John were scared or nervous that they'd get in trouble? But what kept them going? (Allow for a few responses and discussion.) Don't ever forget that God sent us a Helper that we can call on to help us when we want to quit and give up."

Pray:

“Dear God, thank You for being with Peter and John, and thank You for being with us, too. We know we can **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it gets tough**, because You’re always there for us. Help us to finish what we’ve started—especially when it comes to sharing Your love with others. It may not always be easy, but we can keep going because we know You will carry us through. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Unstuck the Stack

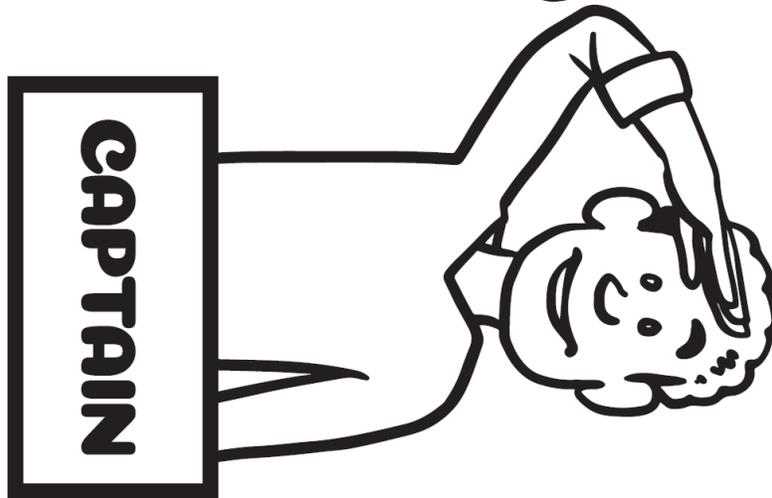
What You Need: Plastic cups, permanent markers, timer, Bibles

What You Do:

- Work together to write the memory verse using your preferred translation (including the reference) on the plastic cups using the permanent markers, with one word per cup.
- Once you are finished writing the verse, stack the cups inside each other in ascending order.
- The reference cup should be on the very bottom (so it’s the outside cup in the stack).
- The next cup from the bottom should be the first word of the verse.
- The third cup from the bottom should be the second word of the verse, and so on.
- Pick one person to go first.
- When you say, “Go,” Start a timer and race to move the reference cup through the stack of other cups until the reference cup is back on the bottom.
- They’ll do this by taking a single cup from the bottom of the stack and placing it on the top (inside the top cup) and continue doing this until all cups have been rotated and they are back at the reference cup.
- While each person moves the cups through the stack, the entire group says the verse out loud.
- Continue playing making sure everyone has a turn.
- The person that gets through the stack the fastest, wins!

What You Say:

“Well, you could say the odds were definitely stacked against us in this game. See what I did there? But you pushed through and showed determination anyway. Was anyone wishing they could just give up in the middle of the game and be done? *(Pause for responses.)* You know, our verse this month reminds us that we can **keep going even when it gets tough**. Whether we are about to finish up the school year, attempting to do all of our chores at hyper speed, or simply showing kindness to our siblings, let’s remember that God wants us show determination every day!”



What to Do:
Print one copy for each small group.

Holy Spirit Power
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