

Really bring home the theme that Jesus can help us even when times are tough and that we can look to Him for help as we stay determined! He goes before us in all things 😊

Go the Distance | Nov. 15th 2020

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.

Small Group Connect (10 Minutes)



1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the welcome question: "Ask them about the best and worst part of their week."
5. **Activity**

2. Moves Unstuck

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Music

What You Do:

- Kids will be playing "freeze dance."
- Encourage kids to show off their coolest moves until you hit pause on the music.
- Then they should freeze however they are posed (even if it's an awkward or difficult position).
- When you un-pause the music, they can get back to dancing.
- Continue to play as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

"I knew we had a pretty cool group here, but I had no idea you all had those kinds of moves in you! Did anyone get stuck having to freeze on a super hard move? (*Allow time for responses.*) You all did an amazing job at remaining frozen! **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we're**

To create meaningful relationships with kids and parents so that they can confidently pursue a life-long relationship with Jesus.

going to learn about some people who really could have gotten themselves stuck but instead, they decided to keep going. I wonder how they did it. Let's go find out!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

6. Coloring pages and toys for play time.

7. **Transition to Large Group:**

Lead your group to the Story Experience area.



Small Group Activity (20 Minutes)

1. Take a Snapshot

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Sticky notes, markers, pencils

What You Do:

- **Pair** kids up.
- **Give** kids five sticky notes.
- **Ask** kids to write on each note an example of when is it tough to finish what you start.
- **Encourage** kids to think about the discussions from previous weeks.
 - What if you have been given a huge job? What makes it hard to finish it?
 - What makes it hard to finish a season playing on a team that is losing every game?
 - What makes it hard to stay motivated to finish homework when you know summer break will soon be here?
 - **Guide** kids to think about examples in their life when they have found it tough to finish what they started.
- After kids are finished, lead them to **group** together similar examples.
- **Discuss** the examples:
 - Is there a common thread in the examples given?
 - Of the examples that you didn't write down yourself, which ones are things that you've experienced too?
- **Refer** to the examples on the notes in the "Bible Story Extension Activity."

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Small Group Discussion (10 Minutes)

1. **Say the Bottom Line and Bible Verse together:**
2. **Bottom Line:** Keep going even when it seems impossible.

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)*

3. Choose one or two review activities:

3. Discussion Questions

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- When was the last time you didn't finish something you started? What kept you from finishing?
- Sometimes we don't finish what we start because we simply get distracted. When do you get distracted or find yourself doing something else instead of the thing you're supposed to be doing?
- What can we do to help us when we want to give up?
- Who encourages you to show determination and finish what you start?

Make it Personal with Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Sticky notes from the "Take a Snapshot Activity," pencils, index cards

What You Do:

- **Lay** out the sticky notes from the Take a Snapshot Activity.
- **Ask** kids to think of what keeps them from finishing what they start. Maybe it is one of the examples on the notes.
- **Give** kids a pencil and an index card.
- **Encourage** them to write a prayer asking for God's to help them show determination.
- **Challenge** them to be specific in their prayer.

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- For example, if they struggle practicing the piano because they don't like the piano, ask God to help you to keep going, practice regularly, and finish the school year/calendar year of lessons.
- If you struggle to be nice to a kid you don't get along with, ask God to help you show kindness and patience when interacting with that kid.
- **Close** in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, Just like You helped Peter and John’s to keep going even when things got tough, You want to help us too. God, there are times it is tough to finish what we start. There are times we get tired, or frustrated or we are confused what to do next. You are always with us! Help us to decide it is worth it to finish what we start and give us the strength to keep going. Amen!”



4. Check Out & Parent Pick-up

Kids should stay in the Small Group until their parents arrive to pick them up and show the 3 digit tag that matches the number on the name tag of the child being picked up.

1. **Talk** about doing the God Time Cards and send one home with each child.

When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** something positive and specific to their parent. Remember this week to **Bottom Line:** Forgive others because God forgives you.

2. **Encourage** families to do the God Time Card together and read the Parent Cue.