

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 😊

Keep Holding On | Nov. 22nd 2020

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.

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. In The Know

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Timer or stopwatch

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams to play charades.
- Choose one team to go first.
- The first team will choose a teammate to act out the secret word. (Remind kids that there's no talking and no sound effects in charades!)
- Whisper a charades word into the first kid's ear and start the timer for 60 seconds.
- That player's team will attempt to guess what their teammate is acting out. If they don't get it right in 60 seconds, the other team gets a chance to guess!
- Regardless of which team wins the round, it's the next team's turn to choose someone to act out a clue while they guess.
- Rotate actors so that everyone has a chance to act out a clue.

Sample charades words: (feel free to come up with some of your own)

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1. Dog
2. Fireman
3. Surfer
4. Football coach
5. Soccer player
6. Teacher
7. Fish
8. Shark
9. Figure skater
10. Mail carrier

What You Say:

“I love a good game of charades! You all did a great job of telling a story with no words so your friends could figure out what you were. What do you think was the easiest to guess? *(Allow time for responses.)* What do you think was the hardest to guess? *(Allow time for responses.)*”

[Transition] Today in Large Group, we’re going to learn about someone who knew a lot of different stories. I guess that means He would be a really great charades contestant!”

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)

4. Verse to Take with You

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Six- by six-inch paper squares, “Joshua 1:9 Cards” Activity Page, markers, glue, scissors, decorating supplies, Bibles, “Monster Bookmark Instructions” Activity Page, mobile device (*optional*)

What You Do:

- **Give** kids a few Bibles and **instruct** them to look up Joshua 1:9.
- **Ask:**
 - What does this verse remind us to do?
 - It takes determination to not be afraid, especially when things are scary. It takes determination to remember Jesus came to give us hope, hope that we can be with God now and forever. What promise in Joshua 1:9 does God give to help us show determination even when we are scared or unsure?
- **Give** kids a six-inch by six-inch square piece of paper.
- Using the “Monster Bookmark Instructions,” **guide** kids to make a Monster Bookmark.
- As kids glue Joshua 1:9 to their bookmark, **encourage** them to use this bookmark as a reminder that God loves them and God is always with them, even when things are scary or unsure.
- When kids are finished with all the steps on the instruction page, let them decorate their monster however they choose.
- As kids create their bookmark, **consider** asking:
 - Did anyone believe there were monsters in their closet or under the bed when they were little?
 - How did you keep going then? What helped you not be so scared?
- If time, **allow** kids to make multiple bookmarks.
- *Optional: For additional Monster Bookmark ideas, **search** “Origami Monster Bookmarks” and click on images. Consider showing these images to inspire kids to get extra creative with their bookmarks.*

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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

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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:

- 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?

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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:

- Help kids get into pairs.
- Ask them to think about something they need prayer for, like determination to finish the school year strong or prayer for a family member who's sick.
- Give kids a couple minutes to share their prayer requests with their partner.
- Then close out by praying over your group.

What You Say:

"God, even though we don't have the full picture of every life event, we are grateful to serve a God who always has a plan. No matter what is happening, we can be comforted knowing that

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You have a plan and You know the end of the story. When we're scared or frustrated, remind us that we can **[Bottom Line] keep going because God knows the end of the story.**"

As adults arrive to pick up, ask your kids to share a bit of the story ending they created today! Prompt them to share that although we don't always know what the end of the story is going to look like, we can **[Bottom Line] keep going because God knows the end of the story!**



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.

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