

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. Roundabout Story

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Guide the kids to sit in a circle with you.
- Start telling a story by saying two or three sentences and then clap once.
- Examples of story starters:
 - One day, a boy named Carlos woke up and his fingers had turned into carrots! He didn't know what to do!
 - It was a normal day. Evangeline woke up, got ready for school, and hopped into the backseat of the car. BUT THEN . . .
- Direct the kid to your left to add a few more sentences to the story until they hear you clap.
- Continue around the circle in this way.
- Keep going until time runs out or the story devolves into absolute silliness.
- If you have time, start a new story.

What You Say:

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

“That was such a silly and roundabout story! We had no idea where it was going to go or how it was going to end. In fact, I still don’t think it ended! We don’t know the end of the story.

***[Transition]* Let’s go to Large Group, where we’ll hear about someone who knows the end of EVERY story!”**

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)

2. Trust Me Craft

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Paper plates, scissors, jumbo craft sticks, rubber cement, markers, decorative materials

What You Do:

- Tell the kids you're going to tell them how to make a craft, but you're not going to tell them what it is. They'll just have to trust you!
 - However, we're telling YOU that they'll be making a handheld fan.
- Give a paper plate to every two kids.
- Show them how to fold the plate exactly in half and then cut along the fold.
- Each kid gets half a plate.
- Instruct kids to use the markers and decorative materials to decorate both sides of their plate. They can decorate it however they wish.
 - However, if they're drawing a scene of some kind, let them know that the straight edge of the plate is the bottom.
- Give each kid two craft sticks.
- Tell kids to use the markers to color the craft sticks.
- Show kids how to hold the craft sticks so they form a very wide V (it should be about a 120-degree angle) with the bottoms of the sticks overlapping just a bit.
 - Don't tell the kids, but this is the handle of the fan.
- Dab some rubber cement where the sticks overlap, and tell kids to press hard on the sticks so they'll stick together.
- Then dab some rubber cement to the top of each stick, and place the straight edge of the plate onto those ends. Tell kids to press tightly on both sides so they'll stick together.
- Ask kids what they just made!

What You Say:

"You just made a handheld fan! You had NO idea what you were making until we were finished, did you? But I did! I knew the end of the craft—the end of the story. GOD knows the end of each of our stories and the end of the story of the entire world! Isn't that amazing? When things get tough or life gets frustrating because we just don't know what's going to happen, we can trust that God knows. We can **[Bottom Line] keep going because God knows the end of the story!**"



Small Group Discussion (10 Minutes)

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

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. Keep Spinning

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Lead kids in saying Galatians 6:9 together a few times.
- Line kids up so they're standing side by side.
- Assign a word or phrase of the verse to each kid, in order, down the line.
- Practice saying the verse several times, with each kid saying his or her word(s) in order.
- Then kids have to spin around one time as they say their specific word(s).
 - Essentially, you'll call out the word/phrase and the kid who is assigned to that word will spin around and then stop when you move on to the next word.
- Repeat as long as you like, with kids saying the verse faster and faster each time.
- Kids will probably get dizzy, but they should keep going if at all possible.
- If they can't continue to stand, they can spin on their bottoms.

What You Say:

"Wow! That was fun and crazy! You all got pretty dizzy, but you kept going even when it got tough. When things get tough in our lives, we can keep going, too. Last week we learned that God gives us what we need to keep going. It's true! He helps us have determination to do good things and **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it gets tough.**"

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Kids' fans from the "Trust Me Craft" activity

What You Do:

- Hand out the kids' fans from earlier.
- Remind kids that they didn't know what they were making while they made their fans, but YOU knew.
- Tell kids to think about something in their lives that they don't know the end of the story to.
 - Maybe their grandma is very sick.
 - Maybe their birthday is coming up, and they don't know if they'll get what they asked for.

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- Maybe their parents are fighting a lot.
- Maybe their cat ran away.
- Maybe their best friend hasn't wanted to play with them at recess for the past few days.
- When they think of something, tell them to use their fan to fan their faces, so you'll know they're finished.

What You Say:

"You can stop fanning now. There are a lot of things in our lives that we don't know the end of the story to. Some of those are very serious things, like somebody being very sick. And some of them are more fun things, like not knowing what you'll get for your birthday. But no matter what the story is, God knows the end of it! And we can trust that He will always do what's best, because He loves us. We can **[Bottom Line]** keep going because God knows the end of the story. Let's pray.

"Dear God, You are so awesome and amazing. You know everything, and that is SO cool! And because You know everything, we know we can trust you with our stories, because you know the end of them. Thanks for loving us, God. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids about what it was like to make their fans.



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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