

DETERMINATION

Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

WEEK 4
1st

BOTTOM LINE: Keep going because God knows the end of the story.

Read Isaiah 41:10

DAY 1

I'm Scared!

Grab a blank sheet of paper and a pencil. Draw a picture of something that you are afraid of. Did you know that every person in the world is afraid of something! It's true! Determination is also about never giving up even when it gets scary. Ball up that piece of paper and show it who the boss is by throwing it away like a basketball! If you think of something else this week that you are scared of do it again! Ball it up and throw it away!

Know that God is with you so you don't have to be afraid!

DAY 2

God Is Our Helper

Ask an adult to help you turn to **Isaiah 41:10** in a Bible. Ask your parent about any big words you don't understand. This verse can give comfort because God is telling you that He is always with you. Now take a minute to learn these hand motions to help you memorize this verse.

Do not be afraid – Wave your index finger back and forth
I am with you. – Point up to God and then to a friend or your parents.

Do not be terrified. – wave index finger back and forth and cross your arms as if you are upset

I am your God. – Point up to God and then lay your hand on your heart

I will make you strong – Do a strong pose as if you are showing off your muscles

and help you. – Act like you are helping the person next to you get up

I will hold you safe in my hands. – Cup your hands in front of you like your holding a small object

I always do what is right. – Point to your eye, wave your hands in front of you and then give a thumbs up

Isaiah 41:10, NIrV

DAY 3

Pillow Talk

Grab a flashlight and go hide under the covers for just a minute so you can talk to God. Close your eyes and think of a time when you felt afraid. Do you know that even when you are afraid, we can go to God and He will help you to keep going? He's ALWAYS there. Close your eyes and pray.

Dear God,

Thank You that I don't have to be afraid. Thank You that you are ALWAYS with me. I don't have to worry because You are right there beside me. God, when I feel scared, remind me that You will help me keep going because YOU know the end of the story.

I love you. Amen.

DAY 4

My Rock

Ask an adult to go outside with you and see if you can find a small rock. Paint the rock and write on it, "God is my rock." Keep this rock in your pocket and the next time you are scared, hold it and remember that God is our rock so we don't have to be afraid!

Thanks Jesus that you don't have to be scared because He is on your side!



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knows the end of the story.**

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WEEK

Four

2nd-3rd Grade

Read 2 Chronicles 20:17

DAY 1

When you receive a new book, do you flip to the last page and read the ending first? Reading the ending would ruin the story! When it comes to following Jesus, knowing the end is a good thing. Why? Because God has already had a plan to make everything right. In the end, God wins!

That was true for God's people in 2 Chronicles. God told them not to worry, that the battle had already been won. The next morning, God's army took their battle positions but instead of charging toward the enemy, they begin to praise God. The opposing army became confused and turned on one another. God won the battle just as He said He would.

Sometimes we forget that we already know the end of the story. **We don't have to be afraid or lose hope.** God is with us and there isn't anything too big for Him. We can keep going, keep moving forward with determination because God knows the end of the story.

Ask God to help you remember that with Him on your side, you win! So you can keep going knowing He is with you.

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:13

DAY 2

What happens when you get tired? Are you cranky? Do you push through it or do you fall asleep the minute you sit down somewhere?

Everyone gets tired. Our bodies need rest. But the kind of tired this verse is talking about doesn't involve a pillow and a comfy blanket. This kind of tired happens when doing the right thing doesn't seem to be getting you anywhere. This tired happens when everyone else is doing the wrong thing or when it seems like no one is paying attention to your wise choices anyway.

Sometimes it just seems easier or even more fun to follow the crowd. That's when you have to tap into determination. Just like the end of a race is way more important than the beginning, we have to keep making choices that honor God and others. Because God sees every good deed, every kind word, every act of obedience. He knows when you're tired and when you ask for His help, He will give you the strength you need to keep making the wise choice.

Write out the words for today's verse on a card and place it near where you sleep. As you go to sleep tonight, ask God to help you keep doing the right thing with determination.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:57

DAY 3

When someone helps you, do you remember to say, **"Thank You!"**
Saying thank you is important.

One of the keys to determination—to sticking with something to the end—is thankfulness. Why? Because God has already done the most amazing thing ever by sending His only Son Jesus. Following God isn't just about doing the right thing so we can be seen as "good." Following God and obeying Him is a big way we show Him that we love and trust Him. When we live the way God wants us to live, we are showing gratitude for all He's done for us by sending Jesus.

So let's practice! Think of one way you can thank God (besides just saying "Thank you"). You could write God a song or poem. You could thank God by choosing to do one thing tomorrow that He's asked you to do that's really hard for you. Let's thank God for the determination He gives us to keep going!

Read Ephesians 6:10

DAY 4

According to today's verse, who can make you strong?

God is the one who can give you the strength you need to keep going. His power is unlimited. Remember, He's the one who created the entire world. He's the one who sent His only Son so that you could have a relationship with Him, forever.

You can depend on God—put all your trust and confidence in Him—because He loves you. There isn't anything you will face tomorrow or the next day or twenty years from now that is too big or too hard for God.

How many chairs are there around the table at your house? Grab that many index cards or scraps of paper. Write out the words of today's verse on each one, then tape them to the back of each chair. Every time you or a family member sits in one of those chairs this week, talk about how you can depend on God's mighty power just like you trust that chair to hold you up. Spend some time thanking God for His mighty power that helps you keep going with determination!



KEEP GOING
because God knows
the end of the story.

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.

