

DETERMINATION

Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

WEEK **2**
1st

BOTTOM LINE: God gives you what you need to keep going.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9

DAY
1

Finish the Race!

Have you ever been in a race? Talk about things that you think you would need to keep going and not quit your race. Cold water to drink, your friends or family to cheer you on, a wet towel to keep you cool are good examples. Guess what? God also gives us what we need to finish anything we start and He doesn't expect us to do it on our own. We can rely on God to give us the strength we need to keep going, even when it's hard! Close your eyes and think of something that you want to ask for God's help with. Pray something like this:

Dear God,

Thank You that You are there to cheer me on and to be my helper when I need it!

Right now, I want to ask for Your help with _____. Please help me to finish well and to not give up because You have given me what I need! I love you!
Amen.

DAY
2

We Have What We Need

Ask an adult to help you look up our Bible story from this week in **Acts 2:1-47**. Read through the story together and talk through the following questions together.

- * What did Jesus ask the disciples to do?
- * How was He going to help them do this?

With an adult, turn off all the lights in your house and find a penny, a piece of string, your favorite stuffed animal, and a matching pair of socks. That sounds impossible right? Well, if you grabbed a flashlight then you could do it. That's like what Jesus did for His disciples. He gave them a flashlight, the Holy Spirit, to help them!

Know that God will give you whatever you need to do what He asks you to do!

DAY
3

You Are Strong!

Ask your sibling or a friend to do an experiment with you. You are going to try to do as many push-ups as you can in complete silence. (Be sure to count them). Take a break and then do them again BUT have your sibling or friend cheer you on with every push-up. How did you do? You probably did more push-ups with someone cheering you on. Guess what? That's just what God does for us. He is for us; He encourages us and gives us what we need every step of the way. So be strong! You have the Creator of the universe cheering you on!

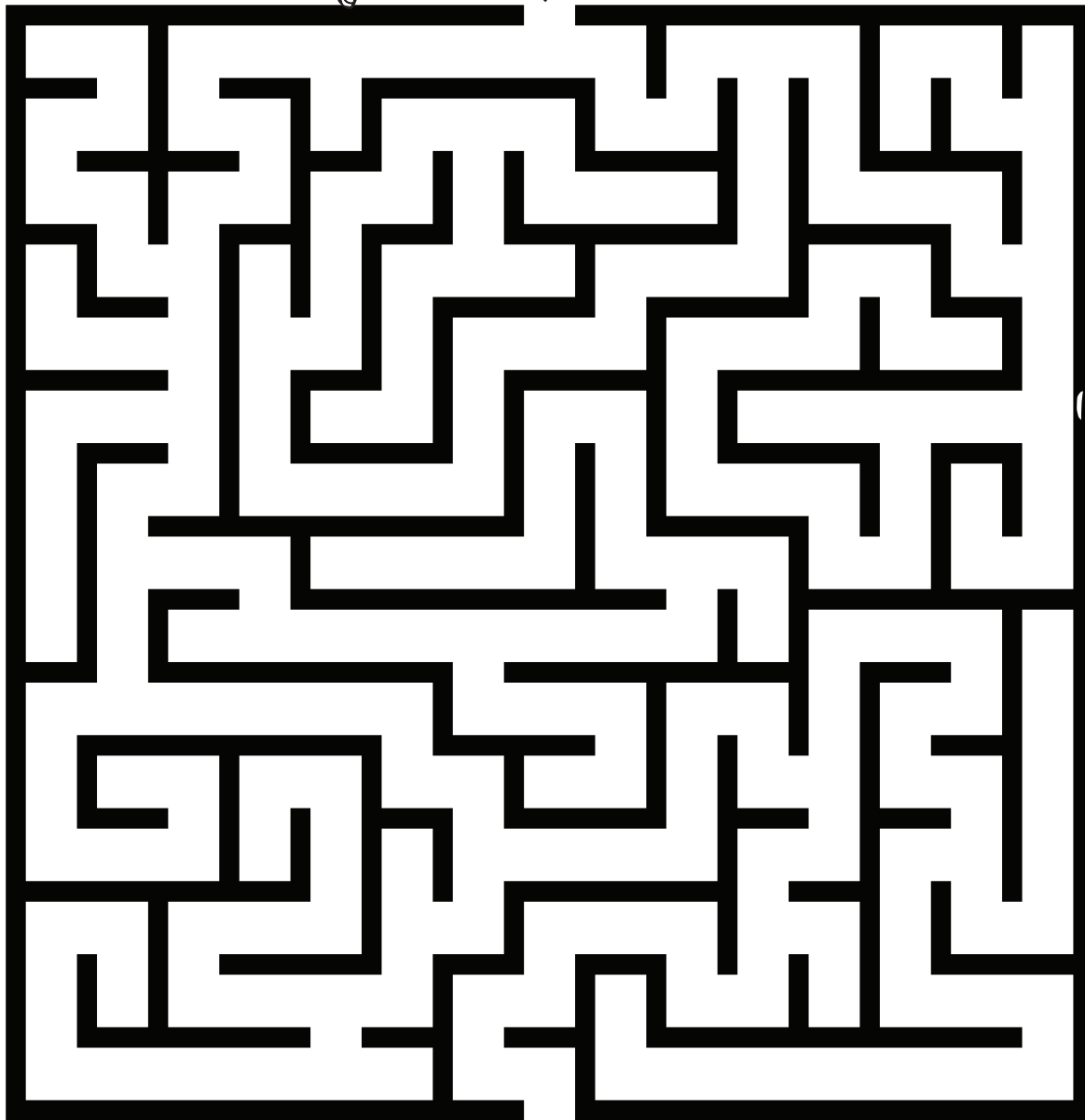
Remember that you can be strong because God is cheering you on!

DAY
4

He Is Strong!

Ask an adult to help you look up **2 Corinthians 12:9**. What an amazing verse for us to remember! How cool that the God of the universe tells us that all we need is His grace and that He is strongest when we are at our weakest. Ask an adult to help you write the verse with washable marker on a bathroom mirror where you can read it every day! The next time that you are feeling like you can't do something or that you don't have what it takes, I want you to read this verse out loud.

Thank God that He is all that you need.



FINISH



DETERMINATION

*deciding it's
worth it to
finish what
you started*

WEEK
Two
2nd-3rd Grade

Read Philippians 4:13

DAY 1

When Paul wrote the words "I can do all things" was he thinking maybe he could . . . walk through walls or make a gazillion dollars?

Not so fast, friends. When it comes to following God, we have to remember that God has a plan and a purpose for each one of us. So when Paul said, "I can do ALL things," he meant all the things that line up with God's will for him. In other words, God won't ask something of you that He won't help you actually do.

Instead of thinking of this verse in superhero, super-human terms, think about the things God asks of you that are hard to do—like being kind, sharing what you have, or telling the truth. God will give you what you need, when you need it to follow His will for you. Because God gives you what you need to keep going.

Thank God for the promise that He will help you do **ALL the things** He's asked of you.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

DAY 2

When Paul wrote these words, he had faced so many hard things just for telling others about Jesus. You can find just a few examples in 1 Corinthians 4:11-13. But Paul reminds us that while others might make us suffer, God never abandons us.

Have you ever seen one of those weighted wobble toys? They're inflated (like a big punching bag) with a weight on the bottom so that when you knock them down, they rise right back up. This is a picture of what Paul is talking about in today's verse. When it comes to following God, you might be knocked down, but you aren't knocked out. God will give you what you need to keep going because He promises He will never leave you.

If you have one of those wobble toys, say the words of the verse as you kick it around and watch it rise again. If you don't have one, ask an adult to help you blow up a balloon. Practice tapping it to keep it in the air as you repeat the words of the verse.

Thank God for the reminder that you can keep going with determination because He will never desert you.

Read Psalm 118:6-8

DAY 3

Has someone ever let you down? Maybe the friend you thought was your “best friend” decided she didn’t want to be friends anymore. Maybe someone said something about you that wasn’t true or blamed you for something you didn’t do to avoid getting trouble.

People let us down all the time because people aren’t perfect. Everyone, including you, messes up. And sometimes people hurt us on accident or on purpose.

But God isn’t like us. He is perfect, righteous, holy and completely good. We can put all our trust in Him. We can keep doing the right thing when we remember that God is with us and that He will give us what we need to keep going.

Set a timer for two minutes.

Jog in place as you repeat today’s verse.

Can you repeat the verse as you jog without giving up?

Ask God to help you keep doing the right thing, no matter what others are doing because He is with you.

Read Exodus 14:14

DAY 4

Ever tried the cookie challenge? With an adult’s permission, grab a cookie or cracker from the kitchen. Look up at the ceiling, place the cookie on your forehead and then, using only the muscles in your face, move the cookie from your forehead to your mouth. Were you tempted to reach up and grab the cookie to put it in your mouth?

Being still is hard and it was really hard for the Israelites, God’s chosen people. They were trapped between the raging Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh’s mighty army coming up fast behind. When Moses spoke these words, he had no idea what God was going to do. And then in one miraculous act, God parted the sea and the Israelites walked forward to freedom.

Being still was probably the last thing the Israelites wanted to do, but they chose to trust God. Sometimes determination requires us to be still, to listen to God and then move when He tells us to move. We need to stop and listen, instead of moving ahead in our own strength.

For a few moments, bow your head and just be quiet.

Read today’s verse and ask God to help you understand what it means to be still and let Him fight for you.

**God gives you
what you need to**

**KEEP
GOING.**





Day 5

Pick a spot where you can draw something—a place you'll see often throughout your day. It could be using a dry erase marker on your bedroom mirror, a piece of paper stuck to your fridge, or even a washable marker on the back of your hand.

Now, draw a fire, the flames bold and bright.

Every time you see this fire, remember that you are not alone. Just as Jesus sent the Holy Spirit like tongues of a fire to equip His disciples to the task He called them to, He has given you everything you need to accomplish His will too.

Anytime things seem impossible, focus on the flames and ask God to show you how He is with you, empowering you, and giving you what you need to keep going. Then do it. Just keep going and finish what you've started.



WEEK 2

Day 1

Go to [Studio252.tv](https://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 2:1-6, 36-41

As you read Acts 2:1-6, imagine each event unfolding.

You're hanging out with your friends, celebrating what God has done.

A loud sound enters the room. It sounds like a strong wind, but in no time, it fills the entire house with the sound.

Then something that looks like fire appears on the heads of your friends. Wait, do I have one too? What IS this?

You begin to speak in a language you've never once studied. But how? And why?

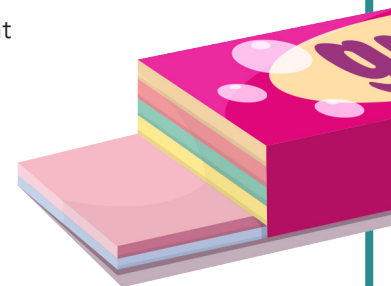
But then suddenly, you know. This was the gift Jesus had promised He would send after He went back to be with God. This is what He is sending you so you can do what seemed impossible: tell the world about Him.

Now read Acts 2:36-41 to see what Peter and the disciples were able to do through the power of the Holy Spirit!

And here's the best part: we too receive the gift of the Holy Spirit when we put our trust in Jesus. It doesn't look the same as when the disciples received the gift for the first time (don't worry—no fire involved!), but it still means that you've got all the power with the Holy Spirit's help to accomplish whatever seemingly impossible task God has given you!

Day 3

Talk to God about something you're facing right now that seems impossible. As you pray, walk around either outside in your backyard or even just inside your room. Don't stop moving the entire time you're praying.



Tell God:

- What you're facing that seems impossible
- Why it seems impossible
- How you feel about it
- How you need His help to keep going

Lastly, end your prayer by thanking God for His presence and His power. When you're done praying, you can stop walking. But even after you stop walking, keep going toward what seems impossible, and remember God will give you what you need to keep going.

Day 4

Who is the most determined person you know? Maybe it's someone who has accomplished some things that seem impossible to you. Or maybe they've had to overcome some really hard obstacles in their life, but they've never given up.

Reach out to that person today and ask them what helps them keep going no matter what—how do they keep working, moving toward their goal? Is what helps them keep going something that you can use on your journey toward your own seemingly impossible goal?