

UNSTUCK

DON'T GIVE UP

MAY 2020 • WEEK 4

PARENT GUIDE

BIBLE STORY

Keep Holding On
Stephen
Acts 6:1–7:60

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

LIFE APP

Determination
Deciding it's worth it
to finish what you
started

BOTTOM LINE

Keep going because God
knows the end of the
story.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter
what.

ACTIVITY: VERSE UNWRAPPED

What You Need: Winter gloves, candy

What You Do:

- 1) Review Galatians 6:9 aloud together.
- 2) Instruct everyone to sit in a circle.
- 3) Give each person a piece of candy but tell them to not eat it yet!
- 4) Kids will take turns going around the circle attempting to open the candy while wearing the gloves.
- 5) As the first kid tries to open the candy, the rest of the group should slowly say the verse. (see verse in column to the left)
- 6) If they unwrap their candy successfully, they can eat it.
- 7) If they can't unwrap the candy before the entire verse gets said, they have to wait until the end of the game!
- 8) Continue taking turns passing around the gloves and reciting the memory verse as kids attempt to open their candy.
- 9) Kids will most likely not be able to open the candy while wearing the gloves, so the goal is to show determination and to have the group say the verse several times together.
- 10) Once you are finished with the game, allow kids to enjoy their candy!

What You Say:

"Nothing helps me stay determined like my favorite candy! Watching you work THAT hard to get to that candy was impressive. You didn't know if or when you'd actually be able to get to your candy, but you did a great job showing determination. After all the times we said our verse just now, you should definitely have it memorized at this point!"

"A lot of times, we don't know what's going to happen. Someone in our family is sick, we're struggling with math at school, or we're just having a hard time getting along with our family. We can always **[Bottom Line]** **keep going because God knows the end of the story.** We can trust Him to help us stay determined because He knows what's going to happen."



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GOSPEL MOMENT

You know, Stephen told the leaders all about God and His chosen people, the Israelites, and about Jesus. But the leaders were angry with him. They didn't like what he was saying. So, they were very mean to him, they shouted at him, and they threw stones at him. It wasn't fair! But Stephen kept going and kept living and speaking for God until his last breath. He even asked God to forgive the leaders. He knew that God knew the end of the story, and he trusted God with everything he had.

God has always had a big plan—a bigger story. It's like Stephen said when he was talking to the religious leaders: Abraham, Moses, and David didn't know the end of the story, but they all trusted God along the way.

We can look at the Bible now and read their stories. We can see how God was faithful and came through for His people. We also know that God kept His promise and sent Jesus to save us. Stephen knew this, too. He bravely taught others about Jesus—no matter the cost.

Even though Stephen didn't know how things would end, he trusted God. He decided to stand strong in what he believed. Stephen died in an awful way. But because of his faith, he went to heaven to be with God. Remember: **[Bottom Line]** "Keep going because God knows the end of the story."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Who was Stephen?
- 2) What did Stephen do when he was in front of the religious leaders? How did they respond?
- 3) Stephen trusted that God knew the end of the story. How can we trust God when we face something hard?

PRAYER

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.