



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 (NIRV)

LIFE APP

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

KEY QUESTION

When were you scared but
kept going?

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter
what.

Activity: Pool Noodle Balance

WHAT YOU NEED: Pool noodles (or similar item), timer or mobile device

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Give** each person a pool noodle or similar item.
- **Tell** everyone to stretch one arm straight out in front of them, palm facing the floor.
- **Challenge** them to see how long they can balance the noodle on the back of their hands with their arms outstretched.
 - If this is too challenging, **suggest** they start by facing their palm to the ceiling and balancing the noodle on their palm.
 - **Remind** them their hand must stay flat when balancing the noodle.
- **Encourage** everyone to stick with it and to show determination.
- Once everyone gets the hang of balancing the noodle, **line up** each person up at one end of the room.
- **Challenge** your family to race to the other end of your area while balancing their noodles.
 - If they drop their noodles, they stop where their noodles fall.
 - The first person to reach the opposite side without dropping his or her noodle wins.
 - If everyone drops their noodles before reaching the other side, the person who made it the farthest wins.
- If time allows, **challenge** them to balance their noodles on the palms of their hand and then toss them to their other palms and without grabbing them, balancing the noodles on their other palms.

What You Say:

"That took a lot of determination to keep the pool noodle balanced! Sometimes, it's hard to keep going when it gets really tough just like it got tough for Stephen in the story today. But we know that God has a plan for us, so we can keep going no matter what!

[Make It Personal] (Share a time when you were overwhelmed by an obstacle or challenge and you decided to trust God because you knew He had a plan. If you have a story about how things didn't get better immediately, but you knew God was with you, share that one!)



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Gospel Moment

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: **Keep going because God knows the end of the story.**

Sometimes you go through difficult things where you can't see the end of the story, and that can be scary. Maybe one of your friends is ignoring you and you don't know why. Maybe your parents are arguing a lot. Maybe someone you know is sick, and you're not sure what's going to happen. Even though we don't know how those situations will turn out, we can have determination because we follow God, and He DOES know the end of the story.

Discussion Questions

- 1) 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?
- 2) How does knowing who God is and that He is always with us help us to keep going even when we are scared?
- 3) When was a time you were scared but kept going?

Prayer

God, we don't know what the week will bring, but You do. You know everything! And You know the end of the story. As we go through this week, help us to remember that we can keep going because You know the end of the story. Thank You, God, for always being with us and for giving us Your Spirit to help us show determination. Amen.