



WEEK TWO

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES AT PENTECOST • ACTS 2:1-41



SAY THIS:

GOD GIVES YOU WHAT YOU
NEED TO KEEP GOING.

REMEMBER
THIS:

"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, NIV



DO THIS:



Q & A for kids: What is something
you're doing now that you're having
a hard time finishing?

Q & A for parents: What is something
that you started and finished that
changed your life? How would your
life be different if you hadn't seen
it through?

DETERMINATION:

DECIDING IT'S WORTH IT TO FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED

EVERY MOTHER IS A WOMAN OF VALOR

By Sarah Anderson

"Thank you for making this dinner! But I think I like Dad's spaghetti better." It was so close to being a compliment, but I'll take it. My five-year-old was right. I put forth a good effort, but his dad is the better cook. Mothering can feel like this at times. Like you are just close enough to getting it, only you just didn't make the cut. You want to be the best. But these days you'll just settle for someone noticing your effort. "Thanks for trying, but . . ."

Mother's Day can feel like the day to celebrate the golden standard of mothering, leaving you to hope others don't get close enough to see how insecure parenting really makes you feel. I get it. But I'm starting to think on days like Mother's Day, or any day we feel inadequate, the last thing we should be doing is worrying over everything we're not.

Proverbs 31 is famous for the picture it paints of the ideal woman. It's today's domestic superhero. The wife of noble character it describes is nothing short of intimidating—getting up before dawn, making her family's clothes, and conducting lucrative business with her handiwork. It's a beautiful picture, but sounds so daunting.

The Hebrew words used to describe this elusive woman are *eshet chayil*, directly translating to "woman of valor."

But interestingly, this doesn't imply something women should aim for. **It asserts we've already accomplished it.**

These words are celebratory, meant to be a blessing, spoken over the valorous women in our lives. It isn't, "Next week, work a little harder on making your own bread." It's, "You love our family well—you are a woman of valor! *Eshet chayil!*"

Sure, we may miss the mark sometimes. **But there are a million things we have done and are doing that make us, that make you, worthy of the title, "woman of valor."** For the clean dishes, homework help, warm hugs, listening ears—for the courage to get up each day, every day, and do it all again, *Eshet chayil!* **You are a woman of valor.**

This Mother's Day, instead of feeling inadequate or guilty for what you think you ought to be, but can't muster the strength to actually be, be encouraged. You are doing a great job. You are worth celebrating. And if no one else notices, your Heavenly Father does. He looks at you and says, "*Eshet chayil!*" Nice work, mamas.

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ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Everyone share about a time you wanted to give up but they didn't. What helped you keep going?

Read John 14:26, NIV: "But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you."

We often talk about how God is with us, but this verse really hammers it home. God is with us via His Holy Spirit; He sent something specific to help us.

- How does it feel to know that God is with you?
- What current situation are you in right now that you need some determination for?

FLAMING HEADBANDS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bible Story" Activity Page; construction paper, scissors, stapler

WHAT YOU DO: • Help kids use the provided supplies to make a "flaming headband."

- Cut one or more strips of construction paper to staple together to wrap around your head.
- Cut out flames and staple them to the front of the headband.

NOTE: Make sure the flat side of the staple is on the inside, so it's against your child's head.

Read the Bible story from the Activity Page.

Kids will do/say what you tell them to throughout the story.

When you get to the "tongues of fire" part, kids put on their headbands, face their partners, and say, "Jesus is Lord".

WHAT YOU SAY: "What an amazing story! The disciples had been given a HUGE task—to tell everyone everywhere about Jesus. They could have been so anxious about it that they just gave up. But they didn't! They trusted God, and He gave them what they needed to keep going—the Holy Spirit! God gives you what you need to keep going, too. When things seem impossible or overwhelming, you can trust God to carry you through. He'll give you just what you need."

BIBLE STORY ACTIVITY PAGE

NOTE FOR PARENTS: The words in **bold** below are instructions for you to give to the kids. After you give the instructions, pause for the kids to do what you say.

It says in the book of Acts: Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing. **Make a sound like a strong wind blowing.** It filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues. **Flutter your fingers up and down like flames.** The flames separated and came to rest on each of them. **Put on your flaming headband!** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in languages they had not known before. **Say, "Jesus is Lord,"** in different languages:

- Spanish: Jesus es el Señor.
- German: Jesus ist der Herr.
- French: Jésus est Seigneur.
- Japanese: Iesu wa Omodesu.
- Swahili: Yesu ni Bwana.

The Spirit gave them the ability to do this (Acts 2:2-4). Immediately, the believers went out to join the crowds who had arrived in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. **Walk in place for a few seconds.** These Jews had traveled from many different places and spoke a lot of languages. They were shocked to hear the believers talking about Jesus in words they could understand. **Say, "What in the world is happening?"** Peter heard that some people weren't sure what to think about what was happening. So he gathered the other disciples together and made his way to the very front. **Say, "Preach it, Peter!"** He said, "God did miracles and wonders among you through Jesus. A long time ago, God planned that Jesus would be handed over. You nailed him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead." **Say, "Jesus is Lord," in your language and do a handshake/clap with your partner.** The crowd listened as the Holy Spirit gave Peter the words to say and helped the people understand. Peter told them to turn away from their sins and be baptized. That day 3,000 people believed in Jesus and were baptized! **Say, "Hooray!"**