



WEEK THREE

PETER AND JOHN ARE TAKEN TO THE SANHEDRIN • ACTS 3:1-4:21



SAY THIS:

KEEP GOING EVEN WHEN IT GETS TOUGH.



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:



Do you think that following Jesus means things will be easy? When you try to live the way Jesus taught us, things will get hard! But the awesome thing is that you don’t have to tough it out on your own. When you follow Jesus, God promises to give you the power of His Spirit to keep going. Pray that God will give you the power of His Spirit this week to keep going, even when things get tough.

DETERMINATION:

DECIDING IT’S WORTH IT TO FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED

HIGH HOPES

By Esther Gray

What do you want your family to look like or feel like 10-15 years from now?

As a parent, you get the extraordinary privilege, and incredible pressure, of creating your own family culture for your kids. When my husband and I started our parenting journey, we decided to make some informal goals for our family (these are not written anywhere, but they could be). We like to revisit them every time an important decision comes up in our lives.

We ask ourselves these three things:

- What kind of parent do we want our kids to have?
- What kind of relationship do we want between our kids?
- How do we want our family to react in times of stress?

These three things we knew we can work on! Three things, that even in the midst of the imperfection of everyday life, we can still learn and teach our kids. I wanted to create and maintain a culture for our family.

- We want to be the kind of parents who will listen, not judge, and not freak out at every little thing.
- We want to be the kind of parents who teach our boys how to deal with fear in a healthy way.

- We want to be parents who will love no matter WHAT.
- We want to be parents who do not “fight” in front of the kids.
- We want to be parents who express our love to each other at home.
- We want our kids to have the best relationships. Although we do not have complete control over this, we want to make sure we always encourage, love, and respect each other.
- And lastly, we try to help our kids to trust God no matter how hopeless a situation may seem.

These things we continue to work on for our family. We have realized that when we make decisions based on these things, we work towards a family that 10-15 years from now will love each other, will trust each other, and will trust God no matter what.

What are your goals for your family?



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Elementary Discussion Questions:

- What can we do to help us when we want to give up? A: (Ask for help, reset: get a snack, take a break, breath, pray about it, make a plan)
- What do you think helped Peter and John keep going with the truth even after they were put in jail and on trial? A: (The Holy Spirit, they were confident in Jesus)
- Who encourages you to show determination and finish what you start? A: (teachers, parents, friends, grandparents, Ms. Katie and Ms. Michelle)

ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY: STAND THEM UP; KNOCK THEM DOWN

WHAT YOU NEED: Dominoes or other similar rectangular(ish) objects that can be set up vertically

WHAT YOU DO:

- Quickly show kids how to stand several dominoes up on their ends in a row and then knock them down.
- Groups must line up a certain number of dominoes (your call on how many) before knocking them down.
- If they accidentally knock them down too soon, they must start over.
- Repeat as many times as you wish, telling kids a different number of dominoes to set up each time.

WHAT YOU SAY: “Whew! That was tough! It’s so frustrating when you ALMOST had enough dominoes lined up, and then you accidentally knocked them down. But you had determination and kept going! Remember: Keep going even when things get tough, just like Peter and John.”