



WEEK TWO

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



ASK THIS:
WHAT HELPS YOU
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, NIrV



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 eschet 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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Preteen Discussion Questions

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 in a specific and intentional way?
- What can you do to remember this verse and let it encourage you when you get worn out?
- What current situation are you in right now that you need to access some determination for?