

DETERMINATION

DECIDING IT'S WORTH IT
TO FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED

K-5TH GRADE
WEEK
TWO

READ EPHESIANS 3:18 -19

DAY 1

Have you ever completed the cookie challenge? Grab a cookie or cracker from the kitchen and put it on your forehead. The challenge is that you must get the cookie into your mouth **WITHOUT** using your hands. If the cookie falls on the floor, you have to try again.

You've probably faced things that are bigger than that cookie challenge. Maybe you helped your dad build a playhouse in your backyard or you had to clean up a super messy room. Part of showing determination is choosing to keep going even when the job is bigger than you think.

But this doesn't just apply to "jobs" like cleaning rooms or building playhouses. Sometimes loving others can be a big job. Sometimes showing forgiveness or choosing to be honest can feel like an impossible task. But there is **GOOD** news for you and it's found in these verses. God's love is far bigger and stronger than anything you can imagine. It's bigger than any task you face. And with His help and some determination, you can love others and do the right thing too.

LOOK for opportunities to show love and forgiveness this week even when it is hard to do.

READ GALATIANS 6:4-5

DAY 2

When you have a big job that requires determination, do you ever compare yourself to someone else? Maybe your friend down the street has mastered their scooter and you cannot ride at all. Maybe a new kid in your class already made it to the highest level reading group and you're not there yet. It's **SUPER** important to remember that everyone has their own 'big' jobs to do. And comparing ourselves to others never makes our job any easier. In fact, comparing yourself to someone else can totally take you off-track.

Think about it like a toy car track. Do you have one in your home? What happens when a car jumps the track and lands in another lane? Both cars crash! That's a great picture for you to think about when it comes to finishing what you start. You have to stay in your own lane. Don't be tempted to look over and compare yourself to someone else. Run your own race in your own lane knowing that God is with you. He will help you keep going even when the job is bigger than you think!

ASK God to help you stay in your own lane so you can finish strong.

DETERMINATION

2ND-3RD GRADE

WEEK TWO

DECIDING IT'S WORTH IT
TO FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED

READ HEBREWS 12:1

DAY 3

At the beginning of today's verse, it refers to a "huge cloud of witnesses." Skip back a chapter in your Bible and read Hebrews 11 to find out who these "witnesses" are. Write down their names to the right.

Noah spent years building that ark before he ever felt one rain drop. Joseph worked hard for seven years storing up grain so that his people wouldn't starve during the seven years of famine. Israel's army followed God's instructions to march around Jericho's walls for an entire week before blowing their horns and shouting with all their might to topple those thick walls.

Maybe you're thinking, "I'm not Noah or Abraham or Joseph!" But each of these men and women were just regular people. There was nothing particularly extraordinary about any of them. But they were determined and they refused to quit even when the job was BIGGER than they thought.

You can choose determination too. You can keep going even when the job is bigger than you think because God is with you. And no job is too big for Him.

THANK God for planning a big job for you too.

READ PSALM 118:32

DAY 4

Grab a piece of paper and in one minute, list all the things you can think of that require a power source (like a light or a computer). Did you come up with a long list? All of these items have a power source that makes them run. But if they're disconnected, they just won't work.

We have a power source too. Our strength comes from God and his power is unlimited. To access this power, we have to stay connected or plugged in. We plug in to God's power by reading His word and by praying to Him. But simply being plugged in isn't enough. If you leave a lamp plugged in or a remote control car loaded with batteries, you still have to turn them on! We turn on God's power in our lives by doing what He says. Once you read God's word, you have to follow through and actually do what it says. So remember, when it comes to determination, you need to plug in and turn it on!

KEEP GOING EVEN

THE JOB

2

WHEN

IS BIGGER THAN

YOU

THINK.

KNOW that God will give you the determination you need to keep going when you plug into His word and turn it on by doing what it says!