



WEEK FOUR – MAY 2020 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Keep Holding On (Stephen) • Acts 6:1–7:60*

Key Question: *When were you scared but kept going?*

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*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what*

Summary: In Acts 6:8 7:60, we find a somber moment in the life in the early church. Stephen, a church leader, was arrested and put on trial for teaching about Jesus. Even as he was being stoned to death, Stephen showed determination. He boldly shared how Jesus was the Savior God promised from the beginning. Stephen was willing to die for his faith because he believed that Jesus was truly the Son of God.

OPENING DISCUSSION

1. Icebreakers / Zoom SetUp

What to ask:

- 2 people share: What has been the best thing you have done this week?
- 2 people share: What's one thing you miss being able to do right now?
- Leader share: What is one thing you look forward to during this Zoom call?
- Fun Activity
 - Challenge kids to come up with ways to “be upside-down.”
 - This could be upside down on a chair, doing a headstand, doing a handstand with a friend holding their feet, leaning over a table . . .
 - Any method goes, as long as they can stay safe while doing it!
 - Let kids have a few minutes to practice their methods of being upside down, then let everyone take turns showing off their methods.
 - Lead the group to vote on which method was the most creative, funniest, weirdest, etc. (Enlist kids' help in coming up with categories, too!)
 - The only rule with voting is that kids can't vote for their own methods.

What to expect:

- Leader: Set healthy standards for what this group time will look like, how much time you'll spend just catching up, and how much time you'll be engaged with the discussion questions -- NOTE: you want to prompt them to watch the weekend message BEFORE this call so they understand what is being talked about.

Recap the Weekend:

- Leader: Recap the story
- ***Consider having one of your the kids retell the story, then you can fill in the gaps

WEEKLY OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *When were you scared but kept going? When you remember how God has been faithful in the past, it helps you show determination in the future. We hope that as preteens remember how they kept going in the face of fear, they'll find the courage to keep going and finish what they start.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

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