

# DETERMINATION

DECIDING IT'S WORTH IT  
TO FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED

2ND-3RD GRADE  
WEEK  
ONE

## READ ROMANS 12:12

## DAY 1

This month is all about determination. Determination is deciding it's worth it to finish what you started. It's hard to stick with something when it's hard. Do you remember how it felt when you were learning to read? Maybe you struggled at first with your sight words or maybe you got your "d's" and "b's" mixed up. But you stuck with it and decided it was worth it to keep learning and working until you could read a whole sentence.

Is there another new skill you'd like to learn? Maybe you want to learn to play an instrument, or to knit, or to draw your favorite TV character. The best way to get started is to make a plan! Grab a piece of paper and ask an adult to help you draw a calendar for this month. Once your calendar is drawn, mark a time each day to work on this skill. As you complete each day, mark a big "X" across that square and watch how your determination calendar can keep you on track.

**THANK** God for the ability to learn something new and to finish what you start!

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## READ HEBREWS 12:7-8

## DAY 2

Determination is important if you want to accomplish something big! If you want to finish what you start, you have to keep going when it gets hard. You won't do everything perfectly. You will mess up, and you will have to fight to keep going. But, what if you decided to believe the words you read in this verse? What if you flipped your thinking around? The hard stuff you face is the stuff that God uses to teach you something.

Has anyone in your family ever accomplished something really hard—like trained for a marathon, or lost a lot of weight, or built something? Interview that person by asking the following questions:

1. Tell me about a time when you faced something hard (in your training or learning) and you wanted to quit. What happened? Why did you stick with it?
2. What would have happened if you'd just given up instead of continuing to work hard?

**ASK** God to help you keep going even when you face something hard.

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## READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-9

DAY 3

When you're working toward a big goal or learning a new skill, you might be tempted to skip ahead. Maybe you don't want to put in the work to practice that instrument every day—you just want to be able to play your favorite song. Maybe you want to wing it on the day of the test instead of studying. But part of determination is choosing to push through every step. You might need to stop when you get frustrated. But the really important thing is to get back up and try again as you walk through every step.

Grab several sheets of paper. Line up the pieces of paper on the floor like a trail. Hop from one sheet of paper to the next, never stepping on the bare floor. Now, remove a few of the pieces of paper randomly. Try hopping from sheet to sheet now. It's way harder—maybe even impossible!

The next time you're tempted to skip a step or to quit when you face something hard, think about those sheets of paper and how important it is to push through each step until you reach your goal.

**LOOK** for opportunities to complete each step until you reach your goal.

## READ GALATIANS 6:9

DAY 4

Did you know ...

Walt Disney went bankrupt several times before he built Disneyland?  
Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team?  
Abraham Lincoln failed twice at business and lost more elections than he won?

What if Michael Jordan had left the court for good after getting cut from his high school team? What if Abraham Lincoln had decided not to run for president? What if Walt Disney had given up before he created Mickey Mouse? These men went on to accomplish BIG things because of their determination.

Think about a farmer. When a farmer prepares the soil and then plants the seed, he's still not finished. He has to water it. He has to look out for bugs and disease. That farmer spends months making sure that his crops will be fruitful by carefully tending his fields. But there is a BIG pay off! When it's time for harvest, that farmer will reap a huge crop because of his determination.

Just like Abraham Lincoln or Walt Disney or a farmer who tends his field, you can do something BIG and reap a harvest if you have determination and DON'T give up.

**KNOW** God will help you keep going even when it gets hard.

