

DETERMINATION

DECIDING IT'S WORTH IT
TO FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED

2ND-3RD GRADE
WEEK
FOUR

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:6

DAY 1

When it comes to determination, God has made a big promise: to complete the work He began in you. That "good work" isn't that you will learn to play an instrument or perfect a back handspring or whatever it is that you chose to tackle with your "Determination Calendar." Those are awesome things to conquer, but ultimately, God has something BIGGER waiting for you.

If you've chosen to trust Jesus as your Savior, that starts your journey toward becoming more and more like Jesus. And when you choose to follow God, one day, He will complete that work in you. So when you mess up, or lie, or cheat, or any of the other things that you know make God sad, remember that eventually, you will be made perfect in a place called heaven. And when you mess up now, you can be assured that God will forgive you and help you make a different choice the next time. You can keep going because God will complete that work of making you more and more like Jesus. And you might just nail that back handspring.

THANK God for the promise that He will complete the work of making you more and more like Jesus.

READ JAMES 1:12

DAY 2

Think about your last soccer or baseball game. Were you tempted to quit when the other team was ahead? What if you knew from the beginning of the game that in the end, your team was the winner. Would you play differently knowing that a win was a sure thing?

Guess what? When you trust Jesus as your Savior, in the end, you win. No matter what happens in this life, God has promised that you will be with Him one day. The 'crown' this verse talks about is life in heaven forever because of what Jesus did for you on the cross. And in heaven, there will be no more pain or sadness or loss or hurt or disappointment because we will be with God.

You can keep going because God knows the end of the story. Grab a piece of construction paper or cardboard and cut it into a long strip. Wrap it around your head to make sure it's large enough to create a crown. Cover the strip with tin foil and use a permanent marker to write today's verse along the edge of your crown.

ASK God to help you remember that in the end, you win.

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READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-17

DAY 3

Have you ever started something, messed up and then just wanted to quit? Maybe you spent hours building a theme park in Minecraft® and somehow lost all your work. Or maybe you built an amazing 1,000 piece LEGO® creation, but then knocked it over accidentally. In that moment, it's easiest to throw up your hands and say, "I QUIT!"

But a determined person doesn't give up. A determined person remembers that whatever the obstacle—it doesn't last forever. Eventually, you can rebuild that Minecraft® world or that LEGO® creation if you don't quit. But the opposite is true as well. If something happens or you face something hard or there's an obstacle in the way and you DO quit, then you'll have nothing to show for all the work you put in.

Today's verses are SO good to memorize for those times when you get discouraged. Grab a piece of notebook paper and write out this verse 10 times. When you're finished with ten, can you say the verse aloud without looking? If not, write it out 10 more times. Don't give up until you can say today's verses from memory.

LISTEN to the promise found in this verse and choose to keep going.

READ REVELATION 22:4-5

DAY 4

Have you ever thought about what heaven is like? It's hard for us to imagine what it will be like to live forever in a perfect place. But that's the promise God has made to those who believe in Jesus. And while there is SO much we don't know or understand about heaven, the important truth that we DO know is that in heaven, everything will be made right. Heaven will be better than the best party or trip to Disney World. Because in heaven, we will be with the One who created us and loves us more than we could ever imagine.

Grab a piece of art paper, a pencil and some watercolor washable paint or markers. Make a sketch with your pencil of what you think heaven will look like. Then use the paints or markers to color your sketch. Write this verse along the bottom of the page.



KNOW that you can keep going because God knows the end of the story and that end is HEAVEN!