

Use this guide to help your family learn how God can help us live with determination.

First, watch this video:

https://bit.ly/PreteenUnstuckWeek5

Then follow up with the activity below!

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

BIBLE STORY

Philip and the Man from Ethiopia (Acts 8:26-40)

KEY QUESTION

What questions do you have?

ACTIVITY: Questions, Questions!

WHAT YOU NEED:

20-30 index cards, markers or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

Write each of the following questions on an index card, creating six Question Cards: Who? What? Where? When? How? Why? Shuffle the Question Cards and set them aside, face down. Then brainstorm together about all the different people in your family's lives (examples: parents, grandparents, coach, teacher, siblings, friends, pastor, Small Group Leader, classmates). Write each person down on a different index card. Shuffle the People Cards and put them in a pile next to the Question Cards, face down. Take turns choosing a People Card and a Question Card.

For each combination of cards, the person who picked the cards gets to come up with a question (who, what, where, when how, or why) that they could ask the person listed on the People Card. Each time you finish using a Question Card, put it back at the bottom of the pile so you don't run out. When you've gone through the entire stack of People Cards, use the remaining index cards to let everyone write down a question they have for God, or about God. As you have time, go through these cards and discuss them as a family.

Parent Note: The goal of this activity is not to answer the questions. Guide the conversation to discuss what happens when we don't get answers; what can we do? This activity provides an opportunity to discuss the fact that sometimes our questions can be answered right away, but there are times we have to wait for an answer. In fact, sometimes our questions don't get answered at all. But it's important to remember to keep going. Whenever you have a question, ask it—and find someone who can help you find an answer.

Talk about the Bible story:

- o The Ethiopian official didn't understand what he was reading, so what did he do? (he asked Philip what the Scripture meant)
- o What important question did the Ethiopian official ask? (He asked who Isaiah was talking about in Isaiah 53:7-8)
- o What was Philip's response to the official's question? (Philip talked about the good news of Jesus)
- o Give an example from the story of how the Ethiopian official showed determination. (By reading Scripture and asking questions, the Ethiopian showed determination to learn about God)
- o **Give an example of how Philip showed determination.** (Philip took the time to sit with the official and answer his questions; even though Philip didn't know why he had to leave Jerusalem, he showed determination to listen to God)
- o Why is it important to ask questions?
- o What happens if we don't understand and we don't ask questions?
- o When is it hard to ask questions?

PRAYER

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible Story or sometime before bed tonight:

"God, You know everything . . . and it's so cool that we can ask You ANYTHING! Help us show determination and keep going even when we have questions. God, You have given us lots of people who we can turn to when we have questions. If there's something we don't understand, help us have the courage to ask—just like the Ethiopian official did in the story. We love You, and we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen."

