

Bible Story: Paul Shipwrecked • Acts 27–28:10

Bottom Line: Don't give up on God when bad things happen.

Conversation Starter: How do you keep trusting God when bad things happen?

Monthly 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 NIV

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- Offering container
- Paper
- Writing supplies

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Ask the group to make a collaborative list of things they would want to have if they were stranded on a deserted island. Write down all the suggestions.
- Encourage kids to debate and discuss as a group what they want the final ten items to be until they all agree.
- After they have their list of ten, present a new challenge: "A wave just washed away eight of your items! You can only keep two. As a group, decide which two items are the most essential for survival."
- Listen to their reasoning as they narrow down their choices.

What You Say:

"That got pretty serious at the end! It's tough to choose when you have limited resources. You have to think about what will *really* help you persevere. In our Bible Story today, Paul and 275 other people got stranded after a shipwreck on an island, and they had to figure out how to survive. But Paul had one thing that was more important than anything on your list. Let's go find out what it was."

[Lead kids to do worship and watch today's video lesson]

2. Just Keep Dancing

What You Need:

- “Just Keep Dancing” Activity Page
- Instructional sheet
- Cardstock
- Clear double sided tape
- Coloring supplies
- Scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print “Just Keep Dancing” on cardstock and cut, one per kid.

Watch the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qk6XQMxJpio>

During the Activity:

- Give each kid the paper strips from “Just Keep Dancing.”
- Follow the instructions on the instructions sheet.
- Let them decorate their dancing person with coloring supplies.

What You Say:

“Look at your amazing dancing people! They just keep moving, and they don’t give up. This can be a reminder of perseverance for us this week. When you’re disappointed or sad, it’s easy to feel like God is nowhere to be found. The truth is that God loves us deeply and is *always* with us, whether or not we feel like it.

“So what does it look like to not give up on God? When you feel like it’s just too hard and you don’t see what God is doing, choose to talk to God anyway. Tell Him how you feel. You can say, ‘God, this is tough. I don’t get it! I really need Your help right now.’ Paul kept going on his trek because He trusted God, and we can too. Remember, **[Bottom Line] don’t give up on God when bad things happen.**”

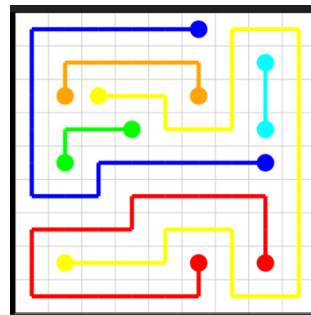
3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need:

- “Don’t Give Up Challenge” Activity Page
- Paper
- Clipboards
- Pencils

What You Do:

Before the Activity:



- Print “Don’t Give Up Challenge” on paper, one per kid.

During the Activity:

- Explain that the goal for each puzzle is to connect the same color dots without crossing over any lines. No diagonal lines. See example picture above.
- Give kids several minutes to work on their puzzles.
- As they work, encourage them by saying things like, “That one is tough, but don’t give up!” or “What’s another way you could try that?”
- After a while, gather the group and talk about the experience. Ask: “How did it feel when you got to the harder puzzles? What made you want to give up? What helped you keep trying?”

What You Say:

“Those last puzzles were really hard! It’s frustrating when you try and try and can’t seem to solve something. Life can feel like that sometimes. We face problems that seem impossible. Maybe a kid at school keeps picking on you, or your parents argue a lot. Maybe your best friend invites someone else to spend the night instead of you. Those are really hard things. But God is always right there, working behind the scenes. God has promised to make everything right in the end, even if we don’t get to see that right away. Paul’s story shows us that even in the middle of a literal shipwreck, God is still there and still working for good. We might not see the solution right away, but our job is to persevere and keep trusting Him. **[Bottom Line] Don’t give up on God when bad things happen.**”

[Make It Personal] (Share a kid-appropriate time about how you turned to God when things got hard. You can share something like: “I was working on a project recently that just kept going wrong. I was so frustrated and ready to quit. But I remembered this verse about not getting tired of doing good. I took a break, prayed, and asked God for a new perspective. It didn’t magically get easy, but God gave me the perseverance I needed to finish it.”)

4. Prayer:

“God, thank You for being with us in the middle of storms. Help us to be people who, like Paul, show others what it looks like to trust You, even when things are hard. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”