

Use this guide to help your family learn how God can help us live with determination. First, watch this video: https://bit.ly/PreteenUnstuckWeek1 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**

Jesus' Final Orders to His Disciples / Ascension (Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11)

#### **KEY QUESTION**

What seems impossible to you?

### PARENT

#### **ACTIVITY: Candy Elevator**

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

2 pencils of equal length, tape, string/yarn, Skittles or M&M's

#### WHAT YOU DO:

Challenge your kid to make a working "candy elevator." First, tape the two pencils together side by side, making sure the erasers are at opposite ends. Cut two pieces of string/yarn, 3-5 feet long. Use one string to tie the pencils together at one end. Then use the other string to tie the pencils together at the other end. Ideally the top of the knot should land in the middle between the pencils, so that when you lift the pencils with the string, they stay horizontally balanced. Then set the pencils on the floor, place a piece of candy on the pencils, stand up and bend over toward the pencils, and loop the end of the strings around each of your ears. Pull gently on each string at the same time and the pencils should raise up like a platform. The challenge is to be able to bring the candy to your mouth and eat it! Let your kid keep practicing until they get the hang of it. Encourage them to keep going until they succeed! Note: For a visual reference, go to: http://bit.ly/37wyNwB or do an internet search for "candy elevator."

#### Talk about the Bible story:

- o Read today's Bible story passages: Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11
- o What did Jesus ask the disciples to do? ((Tell others about Him.) Why would this seem impossible? (This is an opportunity to emphasize there were no TVs, no phones, no social media. Encourage kids to imagine what it was like for the disciples.) Note: technically it's "make disciples of all nations," but this is an easier way to explain it.
- o What promises did Jesus give to the disciples? (He would always be with them; He would give them the Holy Spirit to help them)
- o Can you think of a time when you thought, "I could never do that! That's impossible!"
- o What's one way you can push through thoughts like that in order to keep going?

#### **PRAYER**

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

"Dear God, right now a lot of things seem impossible. But we know that we can trust You no matter what, and You promise that You're ALWAYS with us. Help us remember that You're there for us, especially when we can't feel Your presence and when everything feels really difficult. Help us to keep going, putting one foot in front of the other, with determination and strength. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."



## Day 5

Did you follow through and share with someone yesterday about God's love? It's okay if you didn't—it's not always the easiest thing to do. But even if it seems impossible, it's not!

Think about these things that at one time people thought was impossible:

- 1) Walking on the moon
- 2) Air travel
- 3) The automobile
- 4) Computers (and now we carry them in our pockets!)

What is something that seems impossible to you right now? Maybe it's long division, doing a cartwheel, or making the swim team. Write it down here: \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Now, write down one thing you can do today to make that impossible thing seem a little more possible:

As you work toward doing the seemingly impossible, remember Jesus is with you. And one day, when you achieve what once seemed impossible, be sure and share with others how Jesus' power and presence carried you through!



## Day 1

Go to Studio252.tv and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show. (Click on Fun2Watch! then The So & So Show.)

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

SO & SO TOP 3
After watching, write one thing that
1) YOU LIKED:
2) YOU LEARNED:
3) YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW:

## Day 2

# Read Matthew 28:16-20

As you read Matthew 28:16-20, underline the direct commands Jesus has for His disciples. If you were a disciple that day, do you think those commands would feel possible or impossible?

Now, read back through and circle the places where Jesus makes the seeming impossible, possible. (Hint: It has to do with His power and His promise.)

The task Jesus gave His disciples may have seemed impossible, but having Someone with all authority by their side no matter what meant they could keep going!

## Day 3

What is something that you believe Jesus is calling you to do that seems impossible right now? Maybe it's like the disciples: to tell others about Jesus. Or maybe it's being nice to your little brother or sister, and some days it just doesn't seem possible. Fill in the blanks below and ask God to help you.

# "Dear God,

I believe You want me to

but it feels very overwhelming and even impossible at times. I believe that Jesus has the power to help me do this, and He is with me always. Help me to take one step today by , remembering that Jesus is

always with me. In His Name, I pray.

Amen."

## Day 4

The command that Jesus gave His disciples wasn't just for the 11 men who met Him at the mountain that day. Jesus told them to keep sharing until all nations know Who He is, and until then, we are also tasked with that mission: to share God's love and the fact that He sent Jesus to be our Savior with everyone.

You can just tell a friend about how God's love makes you feel, or share a story about a time you felt Jesus with you, or do something kind for someone and explain that you love because God first loved you. There are so many ways to talk about Jesus. Think about who you will see and talk to today, and what you might be able to share with them about Jesus and His love, then follow through (and remember that Jesus is there with you)!