

SECTION

4.7

# Grace to Persevere



## Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

### Option 1: Quitting vs Persevering

**What You'll Need:** Styrofoam cups®, marker

**PREP:** Color the rims of two Styrofoam cups with a marker. Stack 30 cups on top of each of the prepared cups. Ask two leaders to compete in a cup stacking challenge. Ask both to mess up, but ask one to give up and quit the activity and the other to keep going to the end.

**STEP 1:** Have the chosen leaders stand in front of the kids. Give each a stack of prepared cups and explain that the leader who is the first to restack the cups one at a time so that the marked cup is on top is the winner.

**STEP 2:** Give the leaders a signal to begin and observe the kids' responses when the leaders struggle and one quits. After the activity, ask the kids to compare the attitudes of the two leaders.

Ask the following questions:

- How would you feel if it was you who messed up?
- Why is it sometimes hard to finish a task after you mess up?

**STEP 3:** Share these key concepts:

- God doesn't promise that life will always be easy. In fact, we will face hard times.
- How we respond during hard times depends on whether or not we rely on God.
- If you have trusted Jesus as Savior, then God is always with you. He will give you grace to persevere in whatever task you face.

**STEP 4:** Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of having grace to persevere.

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## Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

### Option 2: Inspirational Concert

**What You'll Need:** Nothing

**PREP:** Ask an instrumentalist to come and play a difficult piece (approximately 3 minutes in length) in front of the kids.

**STEP 1:** Introduce the guests and explain that he or she will be performing a difficult piece. After the performance, ask the guest the following questions:

- How long have you been playing your instrument?
- How long did you have to practice in order to perform that piece?
- What would have happened if you had given up practicing when you were tired or bored?

**STEP 2:** Share these key concepts:

- It is not easy to stay focused on something that is difficult or hard, but God doesn't promise that life will always be easy. In fact, we will face hard times.
- How we respond during hard times depends on whether or not we rely on God.
- If you have trusted Jesus as Savior, then God is always with you. He will give you grace to persevere in whatever task you face.

**STEP 3:** Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of having grace to persevere.

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## Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

### Option 1: Never Alone

**What You'll Need:** Bible (optional: props, container) *(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)*

**PREP:** Bookmark Bibles to Deuteronomy 31:6 and Daniel 3. (Optional: Gather props for the Bible story drama [e.g., crown, toy flute or horn, soldiers' attire, furnace made from a large cardboard box and painted with red flames]. Place the props in a large container).

**STEP 1:** Read or recite this week's memory verse, Deuteronomy 31:6. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- The book of Deuteronomy was written to God's people, the Israelites.
- God promised His people that He would never leave them or stop taking care of them.
- God will keep that promise to all who trust in Jesus as Savior.

**STEP 2:** Divide kids into three groups. Ask the first group to act out the passage as you read Daniel 3:1-2, 4-7. (Optional: Encourage them to use the props as desired.) Instruct a leader to stand by all the groups and give them simple directions or help with any optional props. Instruct three of the group members to pretend to be King Nebuchadnezzar, the herald, and the instrumentalists. Encourage the herald to move his or her lips and pretend to talk as you read his or her parts.

After the group has acted out the passage, ask them to be seated. Call up the second group. Have this group act out Daniel 3:8, 12-18. Assign the roles of Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and King Nebuchadnezzar. Encourage the kids to move their lips and pretend to talk as you read their parts.

After they have acted out the passage, ask them to be seated. Have the final group come forward and act out Daniel 3:19-28. Assign the roles of Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and King Nebuchadnezzar. Encourage the kids to move their lips and pretend to talk as you read their parts.

**STEP 3:** Read Daniel 3:25 again. Emphasize that God was with them in the midst of the fire and they could clearly see that! The Bible doesn't tell us if it was Jesus Christ or an angel with them, but we know the fourth one in the fire was from God.

**STEP 4:** Tell kids that even though we may not have to face a fiery furnace, we all face hardships and trials.

Share these concepts:

- Even after we trust Jesus Christ as Savior, life will sometimes be painful, and we will face hard times and situations that make us want to quit (Philippians 4:12).
- If we have trusted Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit lives in us. We are not alone; He is always with us and will help us get through the painful times so that we are prepared for God to use us (Romans 8:28).
- Even if we are scared or frustrated, the Holy Spirit will give us strength and courage so that we can be brave enough to obey God (Deuteronomy 31:6).

**STEP 5:** Ask kids to think of one area in which they are struggling. Encourage them to pray silently, asking the Holy Spirit to give them the strength to persevere.

**STEP 6:** Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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## Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

### Option 2: Encouraged to Persevere

**What You'll Need:** Bibles, paper, pens or pencils (*Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.*)

**Prep:** Bookmark Bibles to the following passages.

Isaiah 41:10

Romans 5:3-4

2 Timothy 1:7

Isaiah 40:31

**Step 1:** Ask, "What are some situations in which kids your age might want to quit?" If kids are reluctant to share, suggest one or two of the following scenarios.

- Missing the last goal of the tied soccer game
- Messing up on your piano recital piece
- Being made fun of for sharing the gospel

**STEP 2:** Read or recite this week's memory verse, Deuteronomy 31:6. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- The book of Deuteronomy was written to God's people, the Israelites.
- God promised His people that He would never leave them or stop taking care of them.
- God will keep that promise to all who trust in Jesus as Savior.

**STEP 3:** Remind kids that the promises and truths in God's Word can help them persevere. Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen or pencil. Ask volunteers to read the following verses. Encourage kids to listen carefully as each verse is read and to record key words from the verses on their papers, such as, "I am with you"; "I am your God."

Isaiah 41:10

Romans 5:3-4

2 Timothy 1:7

Isaiah 40:31

**STEP 4:** Ask kids to share some of the key words they wrote.

Share these key concepts:

- Even after we trust Jesus Christ as Savior, life will sometimes be painful, and we will face hard times and situations that make us want to quit (Philippians 4:12).
- If we have trusted Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit lives in us. We are not alone; He is always with us and will help us get through the painful times so that we are prepared for God to use us (Romans 8:28).
- Even if we are scared or frustrated, the Holy Spirit will give us strength and courage so that we can be brave enough to obey God (Deuteronomy 31:6).

**STEP 5:** Challenge kids to record on their papers one challenge or situation they are facing. Encourage them to pray silently, asking the Holy Spirit to give them grace to persevere through their situation.

**STEP 6:** Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

**Notes:**