

WHAT CAN HELP YOU FOCUS ON JESUS?

DAY 4

Do you have someone who's cheering you on when you feel like quitting? If not, ask your parents, grandparents, Small Group Leader, or a friend if you can be cheerleaders for one another. You don't have to shake pom-poms or stand on each other's shoulders—just be there reminding one another that perseverance means refusing to give up when life gets hard. Help each other stay focused on Jesus by filling your mind with His promises from the Bible.

Here are a few to get you started:

- o 1 Peter 5:7
- o 1 Corinthians 10:13
- o John 16:33
- o Romans 8:38-39

Even if no one else is in your corner right now, Jesus is cheering you on. He knows what you're going through because He was once a kid like you. He knows about hard days. He was tempted to give up more than once—but He didn't. He kept going so that He could finish the job God gave Him to do. You can't see Him with your eyes, but He's right there beside you waving invisible pom-poms, shouting your name, and cheering you on to the finish line.



PERSEVERANCE

REFUSING TO GIVE UP WHEN LIFE GETS HARD

DAY 1

Take a minute to read Hebrews 12:2-3 then fill in the spaces below with the missing letters in the name of the one who is the perfect example of perseverance.

If you stare long enough at the letters above, you'll go cross-eyed. Get it? CROSS-eyed .Going cross-eyed isn't a bad thing if it means your focusing on Jesus.

In order to persevere, you need Jesus. God made that relationship possible when He sent His Son to become your Savior. Jesus rescues you from the punishment of sin that kept you out of heaven forever. When you choose to believe in Him, He will never abandon you. You can count on Him—not only in your everyday struggles, but in the most impossible situation you ever face.

Stay "cross-eyed" this week. Focus your attention on Jesus. He's the ultimate example of someone who persevered to accomplish the greatest mission of all time. He endured the cross so that we could be rescued.

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DAY 2

Let's finish out the month with one more look at Isaiah 40:31.

Have you ever heard the words, "eagle-eye?" Eagles have super-human eyesight. If an eagle perched himself on the top of a football stadium, he could single out a blade of grass on the ground. In the air, he can spot a fish jumping out of the water five miles away!

We don't have the ability to focus in on a blade of grass hundreds of feet away, but if we know Jesus, we have an ability that's even more amazing. We have what it takes to focus on Jesus. He persevered through many of the same struggles we face—rejection, disappointment, pain. He's the ultimate example of someone who never said, "I give up."

But Jesus didn't persevere alone. He prayed for help from God the Father. You can do that too. Here's a prayer starter to help you. Finish the lines in your own words as you pray.

Dear God,

I need your help focusing on Jesus today especially when . . .

Thank you for your example of . . .

When I feel like giving up, help me remember . . .

In Jesus' name, amen.



PRAY
TO GOD



DAY 3

Put a Bible at one end of the room then invite your family or some friends to stand as far away from it as they can.

Next, ask them to find a book to balance on their head as they walk toward the Bible. If they drop their object, they have to start over. Tell them the secret is to stand straight, walk slowly, and focus their eyes on the Bible at the other end.

Staring at a Bible might help us walk straight but until we open it up and read what it says, it's not much help with the rest of our life. God's Word is filled with promises, wisdom, and great rules to live by. There are stories of people who lived for God and some who didn't. It helps us understand ourselves and others, but above all, the Bible teaches us how to know God. It's different from any other book you will ever read,

Talk together about ways you can use the Bible this week to help you focus on Jesus.



TALK
ABOUT GOD