

WHAT MAKES YOU WANT TO GIVE UP?

DAY 4

Perseverance is all about refusing to give up when life gets hard. But what does it look like to persevere?

- o Grit your teeth?
- o Twiddle your thumbs to pass the time while you wait around for a better day?
- o Count to ten so you don't lose your cool?

Those things might help for a while, but perseverance takes more than willpower. It takes God-power. That's why God gave the Holy Spirit to those who believe in Him.

Think about times you're most tempted to quit. Number the examples below by writing a "1" next to the hardest then a "2" by the next hardest and so on.

- ___ When things look impossible
- ___ When things don't go the way I thought they should
- ___ When something takes a lot of time
- ___ When I get bored
- ___ When someone criticizes or makes fun of me
- ___ When I don't feel well

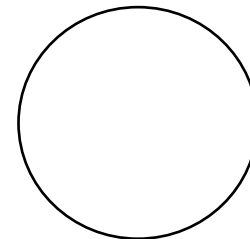
Knowing when you most want to quit then choosing not to do so is a huge step in persevering. When you feel like giving up, plug into God's power. Ask Him to change your attitude and help you press on this week when something gets difficult.

LIVE
FOR GOD

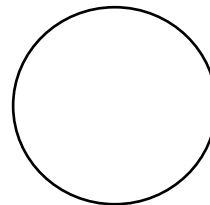


DAY 1

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He gave the disciples a jaw-dropping, eye-popping, mind-blowing assignment. He said, "Go tell the whole world about me." Read about it in Matthew 28:19-20 then imagine the look on the disciples' faces. Draw their expression in the circle to the right.



Thankfully, when God gives a command, He also gives what we need to obey it. Turn to Acts 1:8 and read what Jesus promised His followers.



No doubt the disciples still had a lot of questions and they didn't have all the answers, but one thing they knew for sure; Jesus would be with them all the way. Draw the look of relief that would have been on their faces.

Jesus wanted His message to get out, and He wanted people to believe it. So, He did an amazing miracle—He gave regular guys like the disciples a special ability to speak a language they didn't already know in order for people from all parts of the world to hear about Jesus. Thousands of people heard and believed. Read the whole story in Acts 1 and 2.

God's power is *still* the same. His commands and promises are *still* true. The help He gives His followers through the Holy Spirit is *still* available. That should tickle your gizzard and make your elbows smile. I dare you to draw THAT!

PRETEEN

HEAR
FROM GOD

WEEK 1



DAY 2

Isaiah 40:31 says, “But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.” (NirV)

An eagle isn't born soaring. It can't even fly. As it grows, the time eventually comes when it's ready for its first flying lesson. When a mother eagle knows her gangly little bird-baby is strong enough to fly, she uses a very *complex* technique for teaching him the skills of flight. She pushes him out of the nest. Yup. That's it.

As the little eagle free-falls through the sky, flapping his wings and squawking, his mother flies under him, spreading her massive 90-inch wingspan, and catches him before he hits the ground. She swoops him up and heads back to the nest for another lesson until he learns to soar on his own.

No one will drop you from the sky this week expecting you to fly, but you might face something that seems nearly as terrifying or difficult. Don't quit. Remember that God is watching over you. He's there to catch you when you're falling and teach you how to persevere. Talk to Him about whatever you're facing that's hard right now and ask Him to help you soar like an eagle.



PRAY
TO GOD



DAY 3

Give a few friends or family members a “Perseverance Profile.” Ask them the following questions:

Would you rather . . .

- o ride in a hot car for eight hours with no AC or clean the house for eight hours?
- o have no internet for a week or no indoor bathrooms for a week?
- o have a toothache or a stomach ache?
- o wait in a doctor's office or a dentist's office?
- o do two hours of math or two hours of running?
- o have five spiders in your tent or twenty-five mosquitos?

Go back through the list and talk together about ways God would help us get through each of the situations above if they actually happened.

Here's one more question for the “Perseverance Profile,”

Would you rather . . .

- o give up, quit, and throw in the towel OR keep going because God is with you?”

(Hint: There's only one right answer!)



TALK
ABOUT GOD