

Stop Draggin' My Heart Around

Bible: Stop Draggin' My Heart Around (Cloud of Witnesses) • Hebrews 12:1

Bottom Line: God can help you let go of what is holding you back.

Key Question: What gets in the way of finishing what you start?

Memory Verse: *But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.* Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

Life App: Perseverance—Refusing to give up when life gets hard

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (9:10, 10:25, 11:40)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

Discussion Questions

- No supplies needed

Prayer: Making it Personal (9:55, 11:10, 12:25)

- No supplies needed

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Stacks of used paper (from recycling)
- Large garbage can
- Three mini-stools
- Leader to "spot" the kids
- Worship Leaders to pass paper around
- Prize for winner

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Communicator
- 252 Movie

3. Worship

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Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

CG: Theme Loop

CG: Countdown

CG: Theme

Host enters.

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to The Base. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sporting event, movie opening (Avengers 4, Aladdin), a viral video on YouTube®, or holiday (Mother's Day, International Tuba Day, Star Wars Day, Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day) etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

Opener

HOST: "What's going on, everyone! We have such a great day in store for you. And that day starts with a little bit of chaos. I need three people who think they have what it takes to persevere under some pretty intense conditions. Who's in?"

Host chooses three volunteers and brings them up on stage.

"As you can see, we have three mini-stools on stage, one for each of you. Carefully, hop up and sit on one of them."

Volunteers each stand on a stool. Make sure they are far enough apart that they won't fall into each other.

"Now, as you can already tell, these stools are not the most stable. They actually rock quite a bit. When I say go, each of you needs to stand up onto your stool and *then* stand on one leg. If you fall off the stool or touch your other foot to the stool at all, you're out. It's going to be tough, but for the one who

perseveres, we have a prize for you. Ready, set . . . stop. Wait! Didn't I say we would start with a little bit of chaos? This is NOT chaotic enough. Everybody else—please take a few sheets of paper as they come around . . .”

Worship leaders pass paper around and everyone takes a few sheets.

“Now, everyone please take your paper . . . and ball it up! When I say go, these three will balance on one foot while you all throw paper at them. What could go wrong?! Again, the one who perseveres until the end will win a prize. And . . . GOOOOOOOOO!”

If the game ends quickly, you can try it with new volunteers. Make sure there are leaders to spot behind the stools so nobody gets hurt. When finished, award a prize and then have the whole room “persevere” to fill the empty garbage can with paper balls.

“(After the game) And that, my friends, is how you start a morning. Well done! Now everyone, let's stand and worship together!”

Host exits as worship leaders enter.

Worship

COMMUNICATOR'S SCRIPT**INTRODUCTION**

COMMUNICATOR: "Glad to see everyone here today. To start us off this morning, I have a few pictures to show you. When you know what's happening in the photo, call out what you see. Ready? Here's the first one!"

CG: Unfinished house

Pause for responses.

"Yep . . . a house that still needs some work, I'd say."

CG: Unfinished puzzle

Pause for responses.

"Looks like a pretty good puzzle. They just need to keep going! Next!"

CG: Unfinished book

Pause for responses.

"Seems someone is in the middle of a good book. Alright next . . ."

CG: Unfinished Lego® set

Pause for responses.

"A nice little house coming together there. And the last one . . ."

CG: Unfinished vegetables

Pause for responses.

"Let's be honest. How many of you would say this is YOUR plate at home? Come on! I knew it!"

"Alright, so what do all of these pictures have in common? What links them all together?"

Pause for responses.

"That's right . . . they are all photos of something that's unfinished! Something got started but never quite got finished. Do you have anything in your life like that?"

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "I don't know about you, but have you ever had the feeling that no matter what you do things keep getting in the way of finishing what you started? You start something, but no matter how hard you try, you just can't seem to ever finish what you started. Now sometimes it doesn't really

matter. I've got plenty of books that I lost interest in and never picked them back up. But what about things that really do matter? Like maybe you're on a sports team and get an injury that keeps you from finishing out the year. Or you know you have to finish that project in language arts you feel like you're running out of motivation and time to finish it by the due date. Maybe it has something to do with your relationship with God. That no matter how much you want to connect with God and grow in your relationship with Him, you feel like things keep getting in the way."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Well, don't worry. You're not the first person to feel this way. People all throughout history have run into trouble when it comes to finishing what they start. Sometimes it's their fault, but other times life happens, plans change, and even if they *want* to finish, they're finding it really difficult. Something like this seemed to be happening for some of the first followers of Jesus, and they needed some encouragement.

"We find that encouragement in book of Hebrews in the New Testament. We're not exactly sure who wrote the book of Hebrews. But we know it was written to encourage followers of Jesus to have perseverance when it came to their faith, especially when things were tough for them."

"Let's see what Kellen can share with us on the subject."

CG: 252 Movie (7:20-9:58)

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "See, God has a race for each one of us. He has marked it out for us to run here and now. And the stands are full of people cheering us on. People like Noah, who was faithful to build the ark even though everyone around him was making fun of him.

Or Moses. You remember his life story, right? He almost missed out on running his race because he was so convinced he wasn't going to be a good leader and he wasn't really a very good speaker. But God told him to lay all of that aside and he ended up leading the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt!"

"And then there is Joseph who ended up in a foreign land and found himself being accused of things he didn't do. And yet, he put aside all of his anger and excuses and ended up rising to second in command and saving the entire nation from a famine! And they are cheering you on!"

"And we here in The Base are cheering you on! But if we're ever going to run, we have to be really careful about those things that distract us and hold us back. The things that weigh us down."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Today as you go to groups, think about the race that God has for you to run and ask yourself this question:"

CG: Key Question Slide

"What gets in the way of finishing what you start?" Think about the things that might be carrying around that are keeping you from finishing the amazing things God has planned for you. And don't worry if you're having trouble thinking of something; you'll talk more about this with your Small Group.

Before you head to groups, though, let's pray and thank God for the cloud of witness who went ahead of us to show us what it means to follow God with perseverance. Let's pray.

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses them to small group.

CG: Small Group Slide

CG: Full Video (If Needed)

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Life App: Perseverance—Refusing to give up when life gets hard

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- What gets in your way of finishing what you started?
- Encourage kids to give an example of someone they know who faced a difficult situation and didn't give up. How does hearing stories about people who faced hard situations encourage us to finish what we start?
- Who encourages you to finish what you started? How do they encourage you?
- ***[Make it Personal] (Answer the question above for yourself. Who is someone in your life who has encouraged perseverance in you?)***

Pray and Dismiss (5 minutes)

"God, Thank You for the stories You share with us in the Bible, the life stories of people like Noah, Moses, and Abraham who refused to give up even when things were hard. Thank You for the people You have put in our lives, people who encourage us to keep going and who inspire us by their perseverance. God, there are obstacles that get in the way of us finishing what we start . . . fear, lack of confidence, difficulty of the task . . . but, God, You are greater than any obstacle in our way. Give us strength as we trust in You. Amen!"