

The Goal

Bible Truth: The Goal (Heaven) • *Revelation 21:1-8, 22-27; 22:1-5*

Bottom Line: Keep going because God knows the end of the story.

Memory Verse: “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” *Galatians 6:9, NIV*

Life App: Determination—deciding it’s worth it to finish what you started.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

Not Done Yet

- “Half-Finished Pictures”; 1 set for each kid
- Colored pencils

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- No supplies needed

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

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s Bible Truth.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to bring the big concept of heaven down into your kids’ world. Ask Him to guide today’s conversation with your few, focusing on how He knows the end of the story and He’s prepared an awesome place for all believers. Pray that your few would be encouraged to keep going because God knows the end of their story.

Not Done Yet

What You Need: “Half-Finished Pictures” sets (1 for each child), colored pencils

What You Do:

- Spread the “Half-Finished Pictures” on the floor or table.
- Ask if kids notice what’s wrong with the pictures.
- Challenge kids to pick a picture, show determination, and finish the drawing.
- If you have time, challenge each kid to finish drawing each of the four pictures.

What You Say:

“You did a great job finishing the drawings. It seems as if you all knew what the final picture was supposed to look like. What would happen if you couldn’t figure out what was in the picture?

Sometimes when we don’t know how something will end it can be very frustrating to show determination. **[Transition] Let’s head to Large Group to learn how to show determination when we don’t know all the details or what the end result looks like.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- 252 Intro Video

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- 252 Movie

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- “We Shine”
- “Walk By Faith”
- “Oceans”

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

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

CG: *Welcome Slide*

SFX: *Play “Chariots of Fire” by Vangelis as the kids enter.*

CG: *The Amazing Maze Theme Slide*

Host is on stage welcoming kids as they enter.

Opener

HOST: “Hello, hello, hello! Can you believe it?! We are at the end of MAY! You’re almost finished with school. Plus, this is the last Sunday that our Fourth graders will be with us. Starting next week you fourth graders will be fifth graders and you will meet in the Base. You Third graders will still be here but you will be fourth graders. We will be depending on you to welcome in the new Third graders. Make them feel good and be an example of obedience and love to them. Man, this year has really flown by. I love how you’ve all shown such amazing DETERMINATION to make it through. And speaking of determination, I think you all know what that is, right? Let’s say this together!”

CG: *Determination Slide*

HOST and KIDS: “Determination is deciding it’s worth it to finish what you started!”

HOST: “Yes! Now stand and worship our amazing Creator God!”

Power Praise enters as Host joins the audience.

Worship

POWER PRAISE: “Yes, everybody stand up. All right, I want you to be honest with me. Who here today loves Jesus? Oh yeah. Who is ready to give ALL that you are to living and going God’s way? Let me hear you say, ‘Oh yeah.’ *(Pause for response.)* That’s what I’m talking about. Let’s jump in and shine for God. Sing this loud.

SFX: *“We Shine”*

“Oh yeah. In Ephesians 3:20 we read: *God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine.*”

He does everything by his power that is working in us (NirV). Wow. Isn't that good? It doesn't matter what we face, we can know God is for us. What matters is that we have faith that with Him we have victory. Nothing, no one, and no power can stop us. Let's sing this victory song together.

SFX: "Walk By Faith"

"Yes. It is so encouraging to sing out promises from God's Word. God's Word is true. It never fails or changes. Let's continue to sing and speak with our mouth what we know to be true. Lift your voice in worship as we sing 'Oceans.'"

SFX: "Oceans"

"That was beautiful. Have a great last week in school and we will see some of you here next week and the rest of you we'll catch in the Base."

Power Praise exits as Host retakes the stage.

HOST: "Now let's see what this morning's intro video has to tell us about determination."

CG: 252 Intro Video

Historyteller enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: "Hey, guys and gals! Man, I can't believe this month has flown by so quickly!"

CG: One Big Story Timeline

Reference the One Big Story Timeline throughout this next paragraph.

"All this year, we've been making our way through God's One Big Story. We've seen how He created a perfect, magnificent paradise. But when Adam and Eve broke God's rule, the world became broken. And throughout the Bible, we discover how God has been making a way for us to be with Him forever. This plan was made complete when He sent Jesus, the Promised One, to live a perfect life, die on the cross, and to come back to life, defeating death and this broken world once and for all. Now we are God's shining witnesses that help other people find out about His love and forgiveness through Jesus. And today we get to focus on this last stop on God's One Big Story: The New City.

"Our Bible Truth comes from the last book of the Bible, Revelation. In Revelation the Apostle John shares about how God let him see a glimpse of what God has promised for us in the future. It's a beautiful view of what God has planned for us, but John only saw it; he didn't get to visit it at that time. The problem was that John was in prison on an island called Patmos when he received the vision from God. He wasn't in a good place! It seemed like a lot of bad things happened to John, but he never gave up. He was determined to finish his life for God, and because of his faithfulness, God let him see what heaven would look like. John wanted other followers of Jesus to know what promises God had for them in the future. He wrote them down, and we get to read them all these years later!"

“One thing you’ll realize as we go through these promises today is that John’s words are sometimes hard to understand. We’re not quite sure what he saw, but we get to imagine it! So, while we talk about different parts of John’s vision, I have some helpers up here painting some pictures for us to give us an idea of what the vision could have looked like. So are you ready to begin? All right, I think we’re ready! Here we go!”

CG: 252 Movie

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “I know these verses are difficult to understand, but what John is saying is that God has been determined to make His Creation perfect again since the very beginning! At no point has God turned His back on us or the world He created! And He never will!”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Which brings us to our Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] Keep going because God knows the end of the story.** God has promised us that when we choose to not give up, our reward is more beautiful and wonderful than anything we could ever imagine: eternity with God. Let’s pray.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “God, thank You so much that You have such a great ending to our stories. Thank You so much that living forever with You in a place that is perfect and good has been Your plan all along. When life gets hard, help us to have determination because the end of our stories is so good. Help us remember that there’s no place like the home You’re creating for us. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering or a tithe with you this morning, you can bring that on up to the offering bucket.”

Host enters as Historyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “Wow! That’s a lot to take in today! You know what I’m thankful for, though? I’m thankful that God never gave up on us. He could have said, ‘Enough! I don’t want to spend time with people who sin against Me. I’m starting over.’ But He didn’t. He gave us a way to become pure and close to Him again: His Son, Jesus.

“Everything that God has been doing since the beginning has been about making it possible to be with Him forever. So no matter what happens in our life, we can know that God has His best in mind for us. We can keep going and show determination. And when we do that, it will work out just like God planned. Like our memory verse says:

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9 NIV).

“What’s even more amazing is that even when we don’t know how it will turn out or what will happen, we can trust that God does. Let’s take one last look at our Bottom Line for today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Keep going because God knows the end of the story. I’m so thankful that we don’t need to know all of the answers, because God does. And when we finish what we’ve started, we show God that we truly believe He’s with us every step of the way. So don’t give up! It’s time to head to Small Group, where you’ll talk more about how you can **[Bottom Line] keep going because God knows the end of the story**. Have a great time together, and we’ll see you next time!”

Dismiss children to their Prayer Groups.

CG: Prayer Group Slide

Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids to list some of the stories in the Bible they enjoy hearing about or reading. Encourage them to share verses they like.
- **[Make It Personal]** *(Share an age-appropriate story about when you struggled to show determination because you didn’t know how it would all turn out; you didn’t know the end of the story. Is there a verse or story from the Bible that you turn to when you need help to keep going? What about a person who’s particularly encouraging during those times and shares Scripture with you?)*
- Pray and thank God for His Word. Be sure to specifically thank God for the stories and verses the kids listed.
- Close your prayer with asking for God’s help to show determination and to **[Bottom Line] keep going because God knows the end of the story**.

As adults arrive to pick up, explain that we talked about heaven and how we can show determination and keep going because God knows the end of the story. Encourage kids to share what they learned about heaven.