

# Are You Gonna Go My Way?

**Bible Story:** Are You Gonna Go My Way? (Great Commission/Ascension/Pentecost) •

*Acts 1:1-10; 2:1-41*

**Bottom Line:** I can stick with it because God will help me.

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

**Life App:** Endurance—sticking with what you started even when it gets tough.

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

## Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

**What You Need:** Offering container

**What You Do:**

Invite kids to put their offerings in the offering container as they arrive. Ask kids to name one of their favorite inventions. Have the group discuss why each invention mentioned is beneficial or important.

## Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

**Telephone**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

Lead the kids in playing a game of “Telephone.” Ask them to sit in a circle with you. Whisper one of the sentences below to the kid next to you, who will whisper it to the next kid, and so on around the circle. After the last kid says the sentence aloud, compare it to the original sentence.

- Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.
- A quick brown gazelle jumped over a lazy dog eating a hamburger.
- Fried green tomatoes with a dash of salt are delicious.
- The gigantic bullfrog went, “Ribbit!” while sitting on his lily pad.
- The mailman won’t deliver mail when it is raining gumdrops.

**What You Say:**

“The telephone was a great invention, don’t you think? **[Transition]** Let’s head over to Large Group to see what telephones have to do with today’s Bible lesson.” Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on “The Bottom Line.”

## Catch On #1

**Stick With It (application activity / review the Bible story / great for active learners)**

**What You Need:** Parachute/sheet, small beach balls with “Stick With It Questions” (Activity Page) taped to them

**What You Do:**

Combine girls and boys into separate groups. Have the kids stand around the parachute and place the balls on it. Instruct kids to shake the parachute until a ball flies off it. At that point, tell kids to put down the parachute and take a seat. Read one of the questions below: As soon as a correct answer has been said, yell, “Stick with it!” and the kids will stand up and shake the parachute again. Repeat until all the questions have been answered.

1. How many days did Jesus appear to His friends before rising to heaven? (40)
2. What gift did His followers wait for in Jerusalem? (*the Holy Spirit*)
3. What BIG job did Jesus give to His friends? (*to be shining witnesses, to share Jesus’ story—the gospel—with people, to share God’s love*)
4. In Jerusalem, how did the Spirit help Jesus’ friends share His story with the crowd? (*He allowed them to speak in languages so everyone could understand the gospel*)
5. What did Peter say to the crowd? (*turn away from sin, be baptized, your sins will be forgiven, Jesus is God’s Son*)
6. How many were baptized after Peter spoke? (3,000)

7. How can you begin the BIG job of sharing Jesus with others? (*pray for guidance, learn Scripture, treat others the way you want to be treated, trust God no matter what, make wise choices, practice telling Jesus' story so you will be ready to share it when asked*)
8. What is today's Bottom Line? (***[Impress] I can stick with it because God will help me.***)

**What You Say:**

"In our Bible story today, there were times when the disciples were confused and scared, but Jesus promised to help them. ***[Apply]*** The disciples were given the gift of the Holy Spirit, and when we believe in Jesus, we receive the Holy Spirit, too. We need to remember, like the disciples, that we have a BIG job of sharing Jesus with others and that ***[Impress]*** I can stick with it because God will help me. Now let's spend some time thinking of ways we can share God's love and Jesus' message with the world."

## Catch On #2

### Shining Witness Boards (*application activity*)

**What You Need:** Shiny poster board, "Flames" Activity Pages, markers, tape

**Note: Save the boards and extra flames for the entire month.**

**What You Do:**

Talk with the kids about what it means to share Jesus with others. How would you tell someone about Jesus? (*Jesus loves us so much He died for our sins, etc.*) How would you show someone Jesus' love? (*Treat others the way you want to be treated, be kind, help people, etc.*) On a "flame," have kids write or draw one way they can show/tell someone about Jesus and His love for us. Stick the flames to the "Shining Witness Board." Explain that you will leave the board up in the classroom all month. Each week, kids will add examples of how they shared Jesus with others during the week.

**What You Say:**

"You came up with some great ideas of how we can show the world how awesome Jesus is. ***[Personalize]*** (***Share a story of how someone shared Jesus with you or how you shared Jesus with someone.***) Sometimes it is hard or we aren't sure what we should say to people, but we know that ***[Impress]*** I can stick with it because God will help me. ***[Recycle]*** When we trust God no matter what, when we make the wise choice, and when we treat others the way we want to be treated, ***[Apply]*** we are shining God's light so others can see it. This week, I want you all to look for ways you can share Jesus' message with others—for ways you can shine God's light—and next week we can add more flames to our board."

# Hangin' Tough

**Bible Story:** Hangin' Tough (Paul and Silas in Prison) • Acts 16:16-40 (Acts 16:9-15, supporting)

**Bottom Line:** I can stick with it even when things don't go my way.

**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:** Endurance—sticking with what you started even when it gets tough.

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

## Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

**What You Need:** Offering container, extra "Flames" and "Shining Witness Board" from Week 1, markers, tape

### What You Do:

Invite kids to put their offerings into the offering container as they arrive. Review the lesson from last week. Remind the kids they have a BIG job to do. Can they remember what the BIG job is? (*To share Jesus' message with others and to show others how much Jesus loves them*) Ask kids how they shared Jesus' message with others this past week. **[Personalize] Be prepared to share a story from your week.** Have the kids write their examples on a "flame" and stick it to the "Shining Witness Board." Challenge kids to continue to look for ways to show Jesus' love to others.

### What You Say:

"You thought of some great ways to show Jesus' love to others. Way to go! Let's continue to challenge ourselves to find ways to shine God's light in the world and next week we will add more flames to our board!"

## Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

### What Is It?

**What You Need:** Several paper bags containing "sticky" objects

### What You Do:

Give a bag to one kid. Have him look in the bag but not tell anyone what he sees. The rest of the group will ask "yes" or "no" questions to determine what is in the bag. Repeat with each bag.

### What You Say:

"You are great guessers! Way to stick with it and determine what was in all the bags. All the hidden objects have something in common. Anyone know what it is? (*Pause for answers.*) That is right! They are all sticky.

**[Transition] Let's go to Large Group and see what stickiness has to do with our story today."**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

## Catch On #1

**Tell the Story (application activity / review the Bible story)**

**What You Need:** Large sheet of butcher paper, markers or colored pencils

### What You Do:

Have each of the kids draw a scene from the Bible story on a large piece of butcher paper. Review the story using the kids' scenes. Let them recap the events of the story by showing their drawings to the group. If it looks like no one is drawing a picture illustrating the "planting of churches," you could draw a watering can or a field of flowers or trees and have the kids guess what that means for the story.

### What You Say:

"What does endurance mean? (*Endurance is sticking with what you started even when it gets tough.*) Paul and Silas definitely had endurance. They were determined—no matter how tough it was—to share the Good News, to tell people how awesome Jesus is and share what Jesus did for all of us. **[Apply] Just like Paul and Silas, we need to help people and show them Jesus' love.** We need to stick with it even when it is tough. Say our Bottom Line with me: **[Impress] I can stick with it even when things don't go my way."**

## Catch On #2

### **A Roll of the Dice (*application activity*)**

**What You Need:** Dice, paper or white board

**What You Do:**

Review the Bottom Line with the kids: **[Impress] I can stick with it even when things don't go my way.** Pair kids up. Give each team a die. When you say, "Stick with it," each team will roll their die. The number showing on the die is the number of words of the Bottom Line they can write on a piece of paper or a white board. The only exception is that if they roll a three, they will need to ERASE three words. The team to complete all the words of the Bottom Line first wins. Continue playing until everyone completes the Bottom Line.

**What You Say:**

"This game could have been frustrating for some of you. Even though you knew the Bottom Line, you still could only write down a few of the words and none of you had control over the number you rolled. How did you feel when you rolled a one? A bit different than the feeling you had when a six showed on the dice, or when you rolled a three, right? Imagine how frustrated Paul and Silas could have been. They did nothing wrong. As a matter of fact, what they were doing was good. They were sharing Jesus with the world and as a result, they ended up in jail. **[Apply] But just like Paul and Silas, we need to remember we can stick with it even when things don't go our way. God has a bigger plan and [Recycle] we can trust Him no matter what."**

# I Won't Back Down

**Bible Story:** I Won't Back Down (Galatians 6:9 principle) • *Galatians 6:9*

**Bottom Line:** I should stick with it because it's worth it.

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

**Life App:** Endurance—sticking with what you started even when it gets tough.

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

## Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

**What You Need:** Offering container, "Flames" (from Activity Pages) and "Shining Witness Board" from Week 1, markers, tape

**What You Do:**

Invite kids to put their offerings into the offering container as they arrive. Ask the kids if they have any examples of how they helped people this week. Instruct kids to write their examples on a "flame" and stick it to the "Shining Witness Board." Challenge kids to continue to look for ways to show Jesus' love to others.

**What You Say:**

"Our Shining Witness Board is filling up with GREAT examples of how we can show the world who Jesus is. When we help others, it is a great way to demonstrate Jesus' love. Let's continue think of ways to help others learn about Jesus and next week we will add even more flames to our board!"

## Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

**Catch It if You Can!**

**What You Need:** Coins or washers

**What You Do:**

Direct kids to bend one elbow and place an open hand near their ear so that their forearm is parallel to the floor. Give them a coin to place on top of their elbow. Ask them to quickly lower their arm and try to catch the coin with the hand of the same arm before the coin hits the floor. (For a visual demonstration go to:

<http://www.videojug.com/film/how-to-catch-coins-falling-from-your-elbow>) Once they're able to do so, repeat with two coins stacked on top of each other. Continue adding coins to the stack as kids successfully catch their coins.

**What You Say:**

"As a rule, it's not very easy to catch a coin as it drops from your elbow, but as you stuck with it and practiced, you were able to do it. Even if you couldn't do it in the few minutes we just practiced, with more practice and endurance, you'll eventually be able to pull it off. **[Transition] Let's check out why it is important to stick with it.**" Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

## Catch On #1

**Doing Good (review the Bible story / great for active learners)**

**What You Need:** Cotton balls, straws, buckets

**What You Do:**

Explain that God doesn't only love us when we do good things. We can trust that God loves us no matter what and because we know how much He loves us, we want to do good things for Him and live the way He wants us to. **[Apply] Ask kids to list some ways we can do good. (Be kind, memorize His Word, trust Him, treat others the way we want to be treated, make wise choices, etc.)** Each time a child gives an example of a way we can do good, put several cotton balls into each of the buckets (make sure to put the same amount in each one).

Form two groups. The teams will race to get the cotton balls out of their buckets by using a straw. Kids will create suction on one end of the straw to get the cotton ball to stay on the other. When the cotton ball has been secured, the kids will move the cotton ball outside the bucket and release the suction to drop it. Using hands is not allowed. After each kid gets a cotton ball out of the bucket, he has to say (with the straw in his mouth), "Let us not become tired of doing good," before getting another cotton ball.

**What You Say:**

"It was fun to race and to compete with each other in this game. But that verse isn't just about winning—it is about endurance and not getting tired of doing good and living the way God wants us to. When we stick to making the wise choice and choose what we know God wants for us, it will be worth it. **[Personalize] (Share about a time when you stuck with something and it was worth it.) [Impress] I should stick with it because it's worth it, and so should you!"**

**Catch On #2****Good Charades (application activity)**

**What You Need:** "Good Charades" cards (Activity Page), bucket or other container

**What You Do:**

One at a time, ask kids to draw a card from the bucket. That kid will act out what is on the card, without talking, and have the group guess what is on the card. After each one, discuss with the group how the particular activity, if they stick with it, will be worth it. Examples include: Making your bed or unloading the dishwasher is worth it because you are helping your parents. Reading the Bible is worth it because if you stick with it, the knowledge you gain will help you talk to people about Jesus. Singing or playing an instrument is worth it because if you stick with it, you could be good enough to teach other kids to love it or maybe you will end up in a band and be famous and be able to tell the world through your music how awesome Jesus is.

**What You Say:**

"We have some great actors! You know, the flames on our Shining Witness Board have some great examples of doing good. **[Apply] Each week when you come to church with another idea for the Shining Witness Board you show you are still looking for ways to do good. Remember to stick with it and never become tired of doing good and it will be worth it. God has BIG plans for each of us and we need to [Recycle] trust Him no matter what. [Impress] I should stick with it because it's worth it."**



# Don't Stop Believing

**Bible Story:** Don't Stop Believing (Jesus promises heaven) • *John 14:1-4; Revelation 21:1-8, 22-27; 22:1-5*

**Bottom Line:** I can stick with it because God knows the end of the story.

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

**Life App:** Endurance—sticking with what you started even when it gets tough.

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

## Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

**What You Need:** Offering container, "Flames" activity page and "Shining Witness Board" from week 1, markers, tape

### What You Do:

Invite kids to put their offerings into the offering container as they arrive. Ask the kids if they have any examples of how they helped people this week. Have the kids write their examples on a "flame" and stick it to the "Shining Witness Board."

### What You Say:

"You have done a great job this month thinking of ways to show Jesus to others. This is our last week to put flames on our Shining Witness Board, but I want you to keep looking for ways you can show endurance, stick with it, and help people know Jesus."

## Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

### What Comes Next?

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

Read the first part of a nursery rhyme and see if the kids can tell you what comes next. Examples are below:

- "Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool?" (*"Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full."*)
- "Hey diddle diddle, the cat and the fiddle, the cow jumped over the moon." (*"The little dog laughed to see such a sport, and the dish ran away with the spoon."*)
- "Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep and doesn't know where to find them." (*"Leave them alone and they'll come home, wagging their tails behind them."*)
- "Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall." (*"All the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty together again."*)
- "Rock-a-bye baby on the tree top." (*"When the wind blows the cradle will rock."*)
- "I'm a little teapot, short and stout." (*"Here is my handle. Here is my spout."*)
- "The itsy bitsy spider climbed up the waterspout." (*"Down came the rain and washed the spider out."*)
- "Jack be nimble. Jack be quick." (*"Jack jump over the candlestick."*)
- "Jack Sprat could eat no fat. His wife could eat no lean." (*"And so betwixt them both, you see, they licked the platter clean."*)
- "Hush, little baby, don't say a word." (*"Mama's gonna buy you a mockingbird."*)
- "Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet ..." (*"eating her curds and whey"*).

### What You Say:

"You sure do know your nursery rhymes! **[Transition]** Let's head to Large Group to hear what comes next."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

## Catch On #1

### Do You See It? (application activity / Bible story review)

**What You Need:** "Graph Paper" Activity Pages, "Do You See It? Instructions" (Activity Page), colored pencils

### What You Do:

Kids will attempt to duplicate an unseen pattern by listening to verbal directions you give. Give each kid a sheet of graph paper and a pencil. Read the instructions from the Activity Page, while making sure the kids can't see the instruction page with the final drawing on it. As kids follow your directions, ask them to guess what they are drawing.

After the group completes the first drawing, relate what they just did back to the Bible story. Tell them that just like you gave them pieces of the big picture, God gave John (and therefore us, too) glimpses of what heaven is like. But John had to wait until the end of his earthly life to know the end of the story, just like the kids had to wait until the end of your instructions to see the final picture of what they were drawing. After discussing, complete the second drawing.

**What You Say:**

"At first you had no idea what the final picture would be, but you kept following directions until you got the BIG picture. **[Apply]** As you go through life, often you won't be sure what the end of the path will be but you **KNOW** you can trust God no matter what. Just like it was important for you to listen to me for directions, it is important to listen to God for directions and to stick with it. You and **[Impress]** I can stick with it because God knows the end of the story."

## Catch On #2

### The Rest of the Story (*application activity*)

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

Guide the group to sit in a circle. Start a story with a sentence/phrase below, make up a sentence, or have a kid make up a starter sentence. After you give the opening sentence, each kid will add one sentence until the story is done or everyone has added a sentence.

- I went to the store to buy some milk.
- A purple elephant was eating peanuts on my front porch.
- I was watching TV when ...

**What You Say:**

"When we started our story, we didn't know how it would end, did we? Sometimes that is how life goes. You plan one thing when you wake up in the morning and end up spending your day doing something unexpected. Sometimes the unexpected is good and sometimes it doesn't work out so well. **[Personalize]** (*Share a time when life threw you a curve ball, like when you were going to the beach with friends and your car broke down.*) **[Apply]** But no matter what happens here on earth, we can trust God no matter what. We know that heaven is GOOD and when things here on earth get frustrating or difficult we can stick with it. You and **[Impress]** I can stick with it because God knows the end of the story."