

**THIS MONTH'S THEME & LIFE APP****Bounce Back:** Get back up again**Resilience** is getting back up when something gets you down**THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE**

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. **Isaiah 40:31, NIRV**

THIS WEEK'S STORY & BOTTOM LINE**Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin (Acts 3:1–4:21)**

Keep going even when it gets tough.

MADE TO **PLAY** – activities that encourage following directions while having fun and learning new ideas

WELCOME ACTIVITY: JACKS**WHAT YOU NEED:** Jacks game sets (bouncy balls and Jacks pieces)**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Welcome kids to church and introduce yourself.
- Guide kids to find one or two opponents to play a game of Jacks.
- Give each group a set of jacks.
- Demonstrate how to play:
 - Lightly drop the jacks into a small pile on the ground.
 - Bounce the bouncy ball once.
 - Scoop up one jack and catch the ball before it hits the ground—using the same hand. (That's a onesie.)
 - The next round, scoop up two jacks on one bounce. (That's a twosie.)
 - Continue playing for various rounds:
 - ONESIES: 1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1
 - THREESIES: 3-3-3-1
 - FIVESIES: 5-5
 - SEVENSIES: 7-3
 - NINESIES: 9-1
 - TWOSIES: 2-2-2-2-2
 - FOURSIES: 4-4-2
 - SIXSIES: 6-4
 - EIGHTSIES: 8-2
 - TENSIES: 10
- Let kids play as long as time allows.

WHAT YOU SAY: "Have you ever played Jacks before? It probably got a little tricky at some point in the game when you had to grab so many Jacks pieces before the ball bounced a second time. Life can feel that way sometimes: we feel stressed, pressured, and flustered in the face of having so many things to do. We'll learn how Peter and John, two of Jesus' closest disciples, faced some serious pressure from religious leaders. But they found resilience in remembering that they were simply doing the job Jesus had told them to do. We'll learn how to **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it gets tough** in today's message."

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Resilience is getting back up when something gets you down

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

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THIS WEEK'S STORY & BOTTOM LINE

Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin (Acts 3:1–4:21)

Keep going even when it gets tough.

MADE TO **MOVE** – activities that appeal to kinesthetic and rhythmic learners

REVIEW ACTIVITY: CATCH AND ANSWER

WHAT YOU NEED: Knobby ball/dog toy, question/answer activity page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together in a wide circle and show them the ball.
- Explain that everyone should remain in their spot while you'll toss the ball up in the middle of the group.
- Whoever the ball bounces toward (and whoever catches the ball or comes closest) will then have a chance to answer a question from below. Discourage kids from cutting in front of others (i.e. stay in their place).
- That person can then toss the ball into the middle to proceed to the next round of play.
- Award Kids Cash to those who answer correctly.
- **QUESTIONS:**
 - When Peter and John came to the Temple, what did the man ask them for? (money)
 - What did Peter do INSTEAD of giving the man money? (healed him)
 - Peter spoke to the crowd about Jesus and many people believed. How did this make the religious leaders feel? (angry)
 - What did the religious leaders do? (had Peter and John arrested)
 - The religious leaders asked Peter and John how they were able to heal the man. What did Peter answer? (Holy Spirit/God/Jesus)
 - What order did the religious leaders give Peter and John? (don't speak or teach at all about Jesus)
 - Did Peter and John agree to stop talking about Jesus? (No, they said that they must keep teaching about what they had seen and heard.)
 - What did the religious leaders decide to do after that? (let Peter and John go)
 - When Peter and John were told to stop talking about Jesus, they could have decided to just go home. But they didn't. Why? How could they keep going? (They knew that Jesus was alive, that God was with them, and that He had sent the Holy Spirit to help them.)
 - Today we learned to keep going when what? (it gets tough)

WHAT YOU SAY: "Peter and John kept going, even after being arrested, even after the religious leaders told them to stop, even when they didn't know how things would turn out. Peter and John bounced back. They moved forward. They kept preaching and telling others about Jesus because they KNEW what they had seen. They knew that Jesus was who He said He was and that He did what He said He would do."

“They wanted everyone to know about Jesus, and they knew the BEST way to make sure that happened was to tell people about Him. God gave them power to heal the man so everyone could see how powerful God is. And as a result, over 5000 people quickly joined the new church. Even when things were scary and hard, Peter and John kept going. And we can, too. We can keep doing the right thing. We can keep following and trusting God. We can **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it gets tough!**”

MADE TO **EXPLORE** – activities that engage investigative learners through sensory and scientific play

REVIEW ACTIVITY: JESUS THE CORNERSTONE

WHAT YOU NEED: *Wedged wood blocks, Bibles*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to look up Acts 4:8-13 and call on kids to take turns reading aloud.
- Point out how the disciples had gotten their strength and courage (i.e. resilience) by leaning on what they knew about Jesus and their friendship with him.
- Point out verse 11 where Peter quotes Psalm 118:22 — Jesus is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’
- Explain that Peter is saying that Jesus holds everything together between God and people just as a cornerstone (in architecture) holds together structures.
- Invite the kids to experiment with building an arch bridge using the wedged wooden blocks.
 - *Note the pieces with grips should be used as base pieces to avoid sliding on the table.*

WHAT YOU SAY: “John and Peter were facing tough questions and difficult circumstances, but Peter was able to share how Jesus had made such a difference in their lives. They were able to ‘bounce back’ from the challenges of the religious leaders because they knew Jesus was the most important figure in history! He’s like the cornerstone used the finish the building of an archway: Jesus completes bridging the gap between God and people. That’s also why Peter says, in verse 12, that salvation is found in no one else besides Jesus. Let’s remember this important truth about Jesus as we **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it gets tough!**”

MADE TO **MOVE** – activities that appeal to kinesthetic and rhythmic learners

VERSE ACTIVITY: KEEP GOING VERSE

WHAT YOU NEED: *Foam dice, Bibles*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have a volunteer open the Bible to Isaiah 40:31. Say the verse together for review.
- Guide kids to stand together in your group’s space.
- Invite kids to roll the foam die and refer to the list of exercises to do while someone says the verse out loud.
- Challenge the group to hold that position or maintain that exercise while the verse is being read. Encourage them to keep going until the end of the verse.
- Repeat and let someone else roll the die, calling out a different exercise for each round.
- Continue for as many rounds as time allows.

• EXERCISES

- 1: Squat
- 2: Plank
- 3: Jog in place
- 4: Wall Sits
- 5: Balance on one foot
- 6: Hold arms straight out from your sides or hold your arms over head.

WHAT YOU SAY: “Great job! You kept going, even when you probably wanted to quit! I’m proud of you for sticking with it. Our verse reminds us that when we put our trust in God, we will be given new strength. God’s power is unlimited. God can help you [Bottom Line] keep going even when it gets tough.”

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS:

What does this verse say about God?

What does this verse tell us about resilience?

How does this verse relate to our story today about Peter and John?

How can knowing this verse help you to show resilience?

MADE TO **REFLECT** – activities that allow space for personal processing and application

CLOSING PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: *Printed take-home devotionals*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group for a closing prayer and then pass out the take-home devotionals.
- **Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids:**
 - *When have you given up when things got tough? How did that feel?*
 - *What is the biggest disappointment you’ve ever overcome or bounced back from?*

WHAT YOU SAY: “Dear God, thank You for giving Peter and John the wisdom and courage to keep going even when it got tough. Help us to remember their example and who You are at work in our hearts and minds. Help us be open and trust in you to lead us to share Your love with others. In Jesus’ name, amen.”