Lesson 4: Perseverance

**Lesson Keys**
- Definition
- Perseverance Game
- Scriptural Base
- Jesus, the suffering servant
- The Russian Martyr

**Preparation**

Be sure to read over all the scriptures so that you have a firm understanding of how they all fit together in the lesson so that the teaching will be smooth and continuous. Also be sure to review the story of Job so that it becomes a live and descriptive to the children. Last of all, put special emphasis on the Russian story since it is a modern day example of ultimate perseverance.

**Supplies**

Scripture Guide
- James 5:11
- Romans 5:3-5
- James 1:2-5
- Hebrews 12:1-3

**Teaching Coach**

Allow the kids to offer their own definitions of perseverance before giving the definition.

**Introduction**

Most sports and games usually require one or more components that a player needs in order to be successful. Baseball requires excellent eye-hand coordination, strength for throwing the ball and speed for running bases. Shooting requires exceptional skill and a steady hand. A successful jockey must be able to handle a horse well. However, swimming, boxing, and running all share the same requirement for success: perseverance. Obviously skill, form and technique all have their part in these sports, but the player that can endure to the end is usually the winner. That is why runners train for a three mile race by running 5 miles in practice and swimmers who race for 100 meters swim 500 meters in practice. The person who can go the hardest for the longest will usually win. That is called perseverance.

**Definition**

Perseverance is the unwillingness to give up. Perseverance is the drive to continue on, no matter what obstacles come in the way. It requires stubbornness toward the goal, not wanting anything less than to achieve what it desires.

**Perseverance Game**

Have the kids spread out all over the room. Instruct them to extend their arms out strait in front of them with their palms out. Then, have the children pick up a chair by it’s back and hold it out in front of them with their arms strait out and holding it with their palms facing the ground. When the chair becomes too heavy, or it touches the ground, they must set it down and sit in it. The person who holds his/her chair up the longest is the winner. If the game doesn’t last that long, you can have the kids play it again. Explain that the game involved two components: strength and perseverance. Certainly there is a time when your muscles can just do no more, however, most people give up before this because of discomfort or doubt. You may want to let everyone try it again, this time trying to go longer than they “think” they can make it.
Character Development

MISSION: POSSIBLE

Emphasize the key components of the story such as God allowing Satan to bring trials, Job’s loss of everything including his health and, Job’s refusal to blame God.

Just like running a race, there is a prize at the end. If we can simply endure and make it to the finish line, God will reward us.

Having perseverance is simple when things are easy. However, when the heat is turned up and situations get hard, perseverance gets very difficult.

As you can see from this scripture, perseverance is a fruit of suffering; however, we have to allow that fruit to grow. But once we let perseverance grow, several other traits such as character and hope will blossom as a result.

Job

Briefly review the story of Job.

Job was in a race and his death was the finish line. He was determined to cross the finish line by being faithful to God. What Job thought was the final lap of his life turned out to be just a difficult turn. The race was far from over and he received many blessings for his faithfulness.

Perseverance

Perseverance is closely connected with faithfulness. The reason we as Christians would want to develop perseverance are because we are dedicated to Christ and a life dedicated to him. A runner without any perseverance will never win. We do not want to give up in the Christian life.

We also know that God will reward our perseverance.

James 5:11

11 As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

God will reward those who persevere in his name and he will grant mercy and compassion during the trial.

Suffering

Perseverance is a trait that is usually found in one place and that is in suffering. As a believer, you usually do not go into a time of suffering equipped with perseverance, but it is the suffering that brings out perseverance. It is a choice that we have to make when confronted with difficulties.

Rom 5:3-5

3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.
The true example of endurance and perseverance is Jesus Christ. We may not have to face the level of suffering that he did however, remembering how much Jesus suffered for us often helps us get through the situations that we are in. In most cases, what we are going through is very small compare to Christ’s death.

This story may have more effect on the children since it is not as ancient history as Job. Be sure to ask the kids specific questions to help put them in Ivan’s place. Ask them questions such as, “how long do you think that you could last in thin pants and a t-shirt in the snow?”

James 1:2-5
- 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Jesus, the suffering servant

Heb 12:1-3
12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Jesus had remarkable perseverance. He had to die on the cross for the sins of the world. If he had not done that, we would have died in our sins. Jesus did not give up, but endured the suffering, endured the humiliation, and he endured the cross.

The Suffering Russian

Read the story about Ivan Moiseyev. This is about a modern day Christian who was put to the test and he endured. He can be an example of how to persevere through all kinds of trials.

Closing

Review what was learned. Have kids explain how they would like to develop this character trait. Close in prayer.