



A resource to spark biblically-centered conversations with your kids about the issues they face in today's youth culture.

PERSEVERANCE

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Perseverance is not just about pushing through hard moments; it is about trusting God in them. As your child faces challenges in friendships, school, and identity, this is a key opportunity to help them see that endurance is part of how God shapes faith, character, and hope in Jesus Christ.



WORLD

What is Happening?

We live in a world that avoids discomfort. Everything around us teaches quick fixes, easy exits, and instant results. When something becomes difficult, whether it's a tough class, a conflict with a friend, or even following through on commitments; the natural instinct is often to quit or move on. Perseverance is not celebrated as much as convenience.

For junior high students, this pressure is especially strong. They are navigating identity, comparison, and increasing expectations. Social media reinforces the idea that life should look easy and put-together. When it doesn't, they can feel like they're failing. Many students haven't yet learned that struggle is normal, or that it can actually be good.

Because of this, perseverance can feel unnatural. Students may interpret difficulty as a sign that something is wrong rather than an opportunity for growth. They may think, "If this is hard, maybe I'm not good at it," or "If this is uncomfortable, I should stop."

As parents, you have a unique opportunity to reshape that narrative. Instead of helping your child avoid hardship, you can help them interpret it. You can guide them to see that perseverance is not punishment—it is preparation. It is one of the primary ways God grows resilience, maturity, and dependence on Him.





WORD

What Does God's Word Say?

Scripture consistently presents perseverance as a vital part of the Christian life. In James 1:2–4 (ESV), we read, “*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.*” This is a challenging command. Joy is not our natural response to difficulty. Yet James shows us that trials are not meaningless—they are purposeful.

God uses hardship to produce steadfastness, or perseverance, in us. This kind of endurance is not simply gritting our teeth; it is trusting God as we continue forward. It is a faith that holds on, even when circumstances are uncertain.

Romans 5:3–5 (ESV) builds on this: “*Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.*” Notice the progression; suffering is not the end of the story. God is doing something deeper. He is shaping who we are.

For your child, this means that the challenges they face are not interruptions to their growth; they are the means of it. Whether it's learning to keep going in school, navigating difficult friendships, or staying committed when something feels hard, these moments are forming their character.

Most importantly, perseverance points us to Jesus. Hebrews reminds us that Jesus endured the cross (Hebrews 12:2). He did not quit when it was hardest. Because of Him, we have both the example and the strength to persevere. Our endurance is not rooted in our own ability, but in His finished work.





Conversation Starters and Questions:

Here are some practical ways you can help your child grow in perseverance this week:

- First, normalize struggle. When your child faces difficulty, resist the urge to immediately fix it. Instead, acknowledge it: “That sounds really hard.” This helps them understand that struggle is not failure—it’s part of growth.
- Second, ask guiding questions. Help them process what they’re experiencing:
 - » “What is this situation teaching you?”
 - » “What would it look like to keep going here?”
 - » “How can we trust God in this?”

These questions shift the focus from escaping the challenge to learning through it.

- Third, celebrate effort, not just outcomes. If your child works hard, sticks with something, or shows resilience, even if the result isn’t perfect, affirm that. This reinforces the value of perseverance over performance.
- Fourth, model perseverance for yourself. Share appropriate stories from your own life where you had to endure something difficult. Let them see that faithfulness over time matters.
- Fifth, anchor perseverance in the gospel. Remind your child that their identity is not based on success or failure. Because of Jesus, they are secure. This gives them the freedom to keep going without fear of not measuring up.
- Finally, pray with your child. Ask God to give them strength, patience, and trust. Help them see that perseverance is not something they do alone; God is at work in them.

Over time, these small, consistent moments will shape a deeper resilience in your child, one that is grounded not in circumstances, but in Christ.

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*“And let us not grow weary of doing good,
 for in due season we will reap,
 if we do not give up.”*
 – Galatians 6:9