

Persevere!

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1



Lesson 13

Focus:

God calls us to perseverance.

Lesson 13

Bible Basis:

Genesis 26:1-6,
12-25

Lesson 13

Memory Verse:

Cast your cares on the LORD and
he will sustain you; he will never let
the righteous be shaken.
—Psalm 55:22

As they explore the importance of perseverance in faith, students will watch a video about an Olympic athlete who persevered through a major injury.

Materials:

- Internet access
- Puzzle-type stacking game, deck of cards, toy building blocks or other stackable items

As students join the group time, set up a table in a corner with some sort of puzzle-type stacking game. There are many popular commercial games made with blocks where each person or teammate places a piece and then as the tower grows, one person or team's mistake or misplacement will cause the tower to crash. (If you do not have access to a game like this, building a "house" with a deck of cards, stacking match sticks, children's blocks or interlocking toys are adequate game substitutes.) Have all students take part in the stacking activity at the beginning of class. It is useful for getting across today's message of perseverance.

If your class is meeting online, you can skip the game and modify the question about the game to ask what participating in a past challenging game or activity (whether at school, sports, or extracurriculars) has taught them.

After students have played the stacking game a few times with some success as well as obvious failure, regroup.

- **What did this game teach you?** (Answers will vary such as team work, cooperation, patience, endurance, etc. If no one mentions perseverance, mention it and ask students for a definition of this term.)

Merriam Webster's definition of perseverance is this: continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition: the action or condition or an instance of persevering: steadfastness.

Olympic athlete Brody Malone suffered a major injury to his knee last year. This injury made it uncertain whether or not he'd recover in time to compete for Team USA in the 2024 Paris Olympics. It would have been easy for this injury to make Brody decide never to compete again for fear of further pain or injury. Let's see whether he decided to let this injury stop him from pursuing his dreams.

Play the following video for your students [3:30; stop at 2:13]:

Team USA's Brody Malone overcomes devastating injury for second Olympic berth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CI35ErqC-lk&pp=ygUTYnJvZHkgbWFsb25lIGluanVyeQ%3D%3D>

Discuss the following questions related to the video as a large group.

➤ **How do you think Brody was able to overcome a major injury in order to compete in the 2024 Olympics?** (Answers will vary. Invite various students to share. Note that many people would not have been able to recover in time, if at all. Students may mention determination, perseverance, and a strong desire to do what he loved.)

The fact that Brody is once again able to compete in sports just a year after a major injury is impressive. Perseverance played an important part in his recovery. People don't overcome injuries of this magnitude without a great deal of physical therapy coupled with pain.

Today we're going to talk about another man who persevered during times of famine and drought and followed God's plan for his family and for Israel.

Additional Resources:

Merriam-Webster definition: perseverance

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/perseverance>

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Persevere!

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STEP 4 

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Memory Verse:

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Materials:

- Paper
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

In Isaac's time, nomadic wandering was common. Yet, God had promised Isaac's father Abraham a new land and home. Isaac was determined to persevere by settling the land and making it fertile with a water well, growth, and prosperity. It wasn't easy to work on this barren land, yet Isaac believed God's promise to his father Abraham and claimed it for himself as well. Hard work and perseverance were Isaac's responsibility as he oversaw that the land he inherited would become the promised land.

Invite students to form groups of two and talk about one thing they have persevered at doing (examples: a school project, making a sports team, memorizing lines for a play, joining the band or chorus, etc.). (If your class is meeting online, you can use the breakout room feature of your video chat software or continue discussion as a whole class.)

God calls us to perseverance. Invite students to stay in these pairs and talk about something they are facing in their lives that will require perseverance on their part during the coming week. Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Encourage each student to write down what they are pursuing this week. Some examples might be a school term paper or poster board activity that will require hours of their time, an academic honor roll, a sporting event or musical concert, a talk with an estranged friend that needs to happen, saving up for a missions trip or camp, etc. After students have written these things down, allow for a few minutes for students to pray in pairs about what they are facing and how they will persevere through it.

Isaac believed and clung to a promise. Ask your students to find a promise in the Bible that they can cling to as they persevere in this difficult area this week. Remind them of today's memory verse: "Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken" (Psalm 55:22). But encourage them to find at least one other promise since there are so many more.

Close in prayer, encouraging your students to perseverance in their faith. Remind them that there is a reward for those who do. Read 2 Timothy 4:7–8 to end today’s time together, **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”**

Close in prayer.

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