Determined

Easter Message

Lesson Introduction

"Determination is the fuel that makes the weak strong." Simply being strong will not win life's battles.

There are many strong men and women that were defeated by a bottle of alcohol, cancer growing from smoking cigarettes, or the lure and temptation of lust. It is often not the tall mountain that stops the mountain climber from reaching the top. It is the lack of determination. For every "successful mountain climber" there are many *"would be"* mountain climbers. They *"would be"* a mountain climber, **"but"** something got in their way. Their determination was not strong enough to take them to the top.

Many of the tallest mountains in the world have been conquered by individuals that were specially challenged. Some who reached those peaks, lacked an arm or perhaps a leg. What they lacked physically was more than made up for, by their strong determination.

God + I = Overcoming strength. *Determination* to follow God is what it takes to reach the finish line. *See you there.*

Flash Point

Determined? I am determined to -- follow Jesus!

LESSON TWENTY-TWO

Memory Verse

Flash Point

Determined? I am determined to -- follow Jesus!

PREPARATION LIST

Prepare all songs and story pictures. Trace and color the songs and pictures onto transparencies or larger pieces of paper. If any items are not available, attempt to locate acceptable substitutions.

Welcome: Mad Scientist (MS) costume
National Anthem: National flag
Game #1: Cotton gloves and candy in wrappers
Game #2: Containers, water and cups
Special Emphasis:
Offering: Containers for offering
Announcements: Flyers for next meeting
Lesson Introduction: Garbage bag etc.
Memory Verse: Transparency or poster board
Bible Story: Grape juice, bread, small cups
Object Lesson #1: Chicken bone, seeds
Object Lesson #2: Spool of threads
Object Lesson #3: Rope, string,
Object Lesson #4: Hat, puppet, name tag

Kids Club Rally

Welcome:
KIDS Rules
Prayer _____
National Anthem _____
Theme Song _____
Praise Songs _____
Review Questions #1 _____
Game #1 Wrapped Up!
Review Questions #2 _____
Game #2 Water Brigade
Special Emphasis
Offering _____

Worship _____
Special Ministry _____
Announcements _____
Lesson Introduction Powell Powell
Flash Point: Determined
Memory Verse I Corinthians 11:26
Bible Story Jesus, The Determined One
Object lesson #1 Chicken Bone Religion
Object lesson #2 Really Determined
Object lesson #3 How Determined?
Object lesson #4 I'm You
Story Time Dead Man Lives
Ending Prayer

DETERMINED

Welcome

Props: Paper, marker pen, squirt gun, guard hat, Mad Scientist (MS) costume.
Preparation: Dress a volunteer to look like a mad scientist. (Be creative.) Write a sign that says, "Miss Universe Studio - Do Not Enter." Additional props as needed.
MS: Enters, making a lot of noise. (After he enters, helpers should quickly put the prepared sign over the door. MS talking to leader. I'm going to do it. I'm determined, nothing is going to stop me. **Leader:** What are you going to do? **MS:** I'm going to go see Miss Universe in person. **Leader:** Do you have an invitation? **MS:** No! But I'm determined, and I'm going to go see her. Look! There is the door to her studio over there. **Leader:** But it says, "Do Not Enter." **MS:** That's not going to stop me! I'm determined. **Leader:** Good luck, let me know how it goes. **MS:** Boldly, loudly, attempts to enter the Miss Universe doorway. A guard chases him out with a squirt gun. The MS runs out of the door, dodging the guards attempts to shoot him. Audience gets involved (wet). The guard shouts, "And stay out!"
MS: To the leader he says, "I changed my mind, I think I'll go to (insert name of popular restaurant) instead." **Leader:** Laughing. But I thought you were determined. **MS:** I was, but I changed my mind. (Shaking his head.) I'm not going back in there, see you later. He exits a different route.
Leader: Today's lesson is about determination. We really do need determination. We need to be determined to follow Jesus. Determination can get us into trouble or it can help get us out of trouble. It depends what we are determined to do.

Kids Rules
Opening Prayer

Suggested prayer: Dear Jesus, You were determined to help us so you died on the cross for us. Please Jesus, help us to be determined to live for you. In Jesus name. Amen.

National Anthem
Praise Songs
Review Questions

Finish the Flash Points.

1. (With actions) Character: It's not there. It's not there. It's there!
2. Patience: Hard 2 find. Important 2 have.
3. Generosity gives us velocity to grow and go.
4. Tenderhearted with an open hand not a fist!
5. Faithfulness: Never leave home without Him.
6. Joy-Full: The saddest time's with Jesus, are better than the happiest time's without Him.
7. Dreamers wanted: God wants to talk to us. Young and old, boy's and girls.
8. Good: Be good, there's no law against it.

Game #1
Wrapped Up

Props: Cotton gloves and candy in wrappers.
Preparation: Two separate containers of candy.
Participants: Recommend two to four players.
Game Rules: The contestants line up both groups at the same time. Give them 30 - 60 seconds (depending on age level) to peal the wrapper off of the candies and place them in the bowl. At the end of the game the contestants with the most candy in the containers are declared the winners. (Contestants are allowed to use their teeth).
[As with any games, feel free to replace at your discretion.]

Review Questions

Complete the Memory Verses

1. Do not be fooled: Bad company corrupts good character. I Corinthians 15:33
2. To obey the Lord is better than sacrifice, and to pay attention is better than the fat of rams. I Samuel 15:22 with an open hand not a fist.

3. There was a disciple named Dorcas, who was always doing good and helping the poor. Acts 9:36
4. Be kind and tenderhearted to each other. Forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ. Ephesians 4:32
5. I saw heaven open, and there was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. **Revelation 19:11.**
6. A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22
7. In the last days, God says, "I will pour out My spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." Acts 2:17
8. Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things." Matthew 25:23

Game #2
Water Brigade

Props: Four containers, water, and several individual cups.
Preparation: Fill two containers with water. Place them in the front of the group and place two empty containers at the rear of the group.
Players: All can play.
Playing: Divide the group in two. Perhaps the boys competing against the girls. On the signal to start distribute the individual cups to the leaders of the game. (The ones who answered the memory verses.) On the signal to start have each team dip their cups into their container and pass them on to the next child who passes them to the next until they reach and pour their water into the empty container. The group that empties their container of water first, and has the most water in the second container is declared the winner.

Offering
Children in Special Ministry
Worship
Announcements

Lesson Introduction
Powell - Powell

Props: Garbage bag, cardboard cheering tube.
Preparation: Tuck the plastic garbage bag in your belt, or place it near to hand. Form a megaphone out of a piece of cardboard. See clip art. An additional accessory might be a walking stick with a nail in the end to use in picking up trash.
Presentation: Let's give a cheer. Repeat after me. Powell. Powell. Powell. Encourage audience to participate. Do the cheer two or three times. Perhaps, slow, fast, soft and loud. Kids, what does our cheer "Powell, Powell, Powell" mean? (The audience won't know until you tell them.) Powell is the family name of a follower of Jesus who lives in the country in a state called Idaho. Every day Joan (sounds like Jo Ann) goes out with a garbage bag and walks about 6 kilometers (3 miles) through a nearby school. As she walks, she picks up trash. In one year she will clean up over 300 large bags of garbage from beside the road and from off the school grounds. No one pays her, she does it because she is one of God's determined servants. No pay is necessary for her to do good. She is near 70 years old. Let's repeat our cheer of thanks again. One day you and I will go home, we will meet her there. If we are determined, our home will be Heaven. That is if we determine to follow Jesus. When we get home, we too will hear a cheer, of well done, if we are determined to -- (Encourage audience to finish by saying, **"follow Jesus."** Today's **Flash Point: Determined: I am determined to -- follow Jesus!**

Memory Verse

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show others about the Lord's death until he returns.
I Corinthians 11:26

Props: Transparency or poster of today's scripture verse. It can be used as a coloring page for the class or as a take home item.
Preparation: Practice and become familiar with today's memory verse. Recommend using the music provided on the Kids Praise and Worship tape. Also as an extra reward for memorizing Scripture, you might consider giving special prizes to the children who memorize all thirteen verses in the quarter.
Presentation: Communion is a time for us to remember what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross. Many big people feel like communion is something only for adults. This is not what the Bible teaches. Jesus, died for us all. When we go to heaven, no one will measure the size of our shoes (feet) or check to see how tall we are. The only thing required to go into Heaven's gates is do we love and follow Jesus. Can kids love and follow Jesus? (Encourage audience response.)
Props: List of all Flash Points.
Review: Practice all **Flash Points** with actions and definitions.

Flash Points

#1. Character: It's not there. It's not there. It's there!
#2. Patience, hard 2 find. Important 2 have.
#3. Generosity gives us velocity to grow & go.
#4. Tenderhearted with an open hand not a fist.
#5. Faithfulness: Never leave home without Him.
#6 Joy-Full: The saddest time's with Jesus, are better than the happiest time's without Him.
#7. Flash Point: Dreamers wanted: God wants to talk to us. Young and old, boy's and girls.
#8. Good: Be good, there's no law against it.
#9. Determined? I am determined to -- follow Jesus!

Quiet Seat Time

This week's **Flash Point: Determined? I am determined to -- follow Jesus!** Use the flash point as your question, "Determined?" Encourage the audience to respond with the answer. "I am determined to follow Jesus!"
Flash Point: Determined? I am determined to -- follow Jesus!

Bible Story
Jesus, the Determined One
1 Corinthians 11

Props: Grape juice, bread, small cups, three pieces of wood, nails and hammer.
Preparation: Two short pieces of wood need to be the same length to form the top and bottom of the letter "I." The third piece is to be longer forming the upright part of the letter, "I." Read and meditate on today's Scripture. Bring this sacred time to your children in a way that they will understand and treasure. If you have children in your group that are too young to understand what communion means, they may still participate. Exodus 12 sets the example as God gave directions to the Jews to have the entire family take part in the Passover, so that the children as they get older they may ask, "What is the meaning of this ceremony?" Jesus loves the little children even the very young. They need Communion just as much (perhaps more) than the adults. Make sure that you as a teacher lead them to Christ in the best way possible. Prayers and sacraments of the Church are not totally dependant upon understanding. How many of us, even as adults, understand the most profound truth, "Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so."

[**Teachers note:** *As with all lessons, you are the final filter. If you have any difficulties with a lesson, adapt or modify to your own needs or understanding of Scriptures.*]
Participants: Leader and helpers or volunteers.
Presentation: As you prepare to serve communion, first sing the song. "Jesus loves me this I know..."

Kids, Jesus was **determined** to help us. Jesus loved us so much, He knew that the only way that we could get to Heaven was for Him to die in our place. How many of us have sinned? Raise your hands. (Even the teacher needs to raise his hand.) How many sins does it take to condemn us to hell? The answer is, "Just one sin." The Bible tells us that God is holy and pure. No one can go to heaven with sin in their heart. That is why we need Jesus. The payment for sin is death. The middle letter of the word sin is "I." Nail the three pieces of wood together forming the letter "I." When we live for "I" or ourselves, we will go to hell. The only way, to not go to hell, is to ask Jesus to forgive us and to invite Him to live in our hearts. When Jesus forgives us, His death on the cross, (Take the top piece of wood, remove it, and nail it onto the longer piece of wood to form a cross.) makes it possible for us to go to Heaven. (Hold up the cross.)

When Jesus was nailed to the cross, He bled and died. We are going to take communion. The bread we will eat, (Hold up the bread.) represents His body that was broken for us. (Break the bread). Ask audience, "What does the bread represent?" Encourage their response. "His body." Hold up the juice. This juice represents the blood that Jesus bled for us. His blood provides healing and forgiveness. This juice is not His blood, it simply helps to remind us of what He did for us. If you have not yet asked Jesus into your heart, now is a good time to do so. Let's bow our heads and pray. Lead the children in a prayer of salvation.

Sample prayer:

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for dying on the cross to forgive me of my sins. Please come into my heart and forgive me of my sins. I need your help to live for you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

[Give the following warning to willful unbelievers.
(Note: This does not refer to small children who are to young to understand.]

If any one here is **determined** and **not** willing to follow Jesus, you are warned by Scripture to **not** take part in communion. So, if you **do not** want to follow Jesus, simply say, "No thank you." When the bread and juice come your way. Do not take communion, or else you will take God's judgement on yourself. If a child is too young to understand what is happening, yet they want to take a piece of the bread or juice, that is OK. You may help the little children take part in this ceremony which is being done, remembering that Jesus is coming back. Jesus loves even the youngest of children. Distribute the bread and juice. Ask the audience to wait so that everyone can take part together. When all have received, say a short prayer over the bread. Eat it together. Then say a short prayer over the juice, and drink it together. Conclude by thanking Jesus as a group for loving us. **Flash Point: Determined? I am determined to -- follow Jesus!**

Object Lesson #1
Chicken Bone Religion

Props: Chicken bone, seeds.
Preparation: Secure a chicken bone, and some chicken seed, or acceptable substitute, perhaps bread crumbs.
Presentation: Scatter some chicken seed (or substitute). Hold the chicken bone behind your back, out of sight. I have a very **determined** chicken, it wants to eat all this chicken food. Point to the chicken feed. Do you want to see my **determined** chicken? (Encourage a 'yes' response.) Pull out the chicken bone, act like the bone is super **determined** to eat the scattered feed. After a moment or two ask the kids, "Do you think this chicken is really **determined** to eat this chicken food?" (Encourage a 'No' answer.) What's wrong with this chicken. Let them help you, decide that the problem is, the chicken is dead. It cannot eat, it is not alive.

Kids, we have the same problem. (Use the chicken bone as your emphasis.) Until we ask Jesus to come inside of us, we are just as dead as this chicken bone. Oh yes without Jesus, we might look like we are alive. But no matter how hard we try to act alive we are still dead.

How many days would it take for me to bring this chicken bone back to life? Encourage a 'never' response. That's right I never can make this chicken live. The power to give life to the dead belongs only to God. If we are dead, because of our sins, we need Jesus to come into our hearts to bring us to life. How many of you are determined to live for Jesus?

Raise up the chicken bone. Without Jesus we are dead like this chicken bone. We need Jesus.

Flash Point: Determined: I am determined to -- follow Jesus!

Object Lesson #2
Really Determined

Props: Spool of thread.

Participants: Leader and ask in advance for one small volunteer. Keep this selection secret from the audience.

Presentation: I need a volunteer. Select from the audience your pre-selected small volunteer. Thank you for volunteering. Would you please follow me? I have a spool of thread you can tie yourself to me to help you follow me. Assist the child to tie one small thread to you. Walk with the child following. When the thread breaks, stop, ask the child. "Do you still want to follow me?" When they say, 'yes,' ask them, "How can you follow me better?" Have the small child reply (or demonstrate), "Tie me to you better." Put the child's hand in yours. Take the same thread and allow the child to wrap it many times around your hand and the child's hand. Walk with the child, show the audience how you are tied together.

(This could also be demonstrated by the small child, not saying a word but having you lean over and they get on your back. Then taking the string the little child wraps the string round and round the two of you.)

Explain to the audience, "(Insert child's name) is determined to follow me. The best way for her to follow me is to tie herself securely to me.

Jesus wants us to tie ourselves to Him.

The best way to tie ourselves to Jesus is similar to using this thread. It is thin enough to break, especially if it is only wrapped around us once.

If we wrap the thread it many times it becomes stronger and stronger. Demonstrate its weakness in a single strand. Then its strength as it is multiplied. How determined we are to follow Jesus will be determined by the decisions we make every day. The more determined we are the stronger that we will become attached to Jesus. **Flash Point: Determined: I am determined to -- follow Jesus!**

Object Lesson #3
How Determined?

Props: Ropes, string, mask or makeup, wooden cross, paper.

Preparation: Tie a larger volunteer or helper, with the cross held securely under the ropes. Make it look like they are really tied securely with a strong rope. Only make it so that <u>the rope is held in place by a very small easily broken string</u> or make it so the individual can slip in and out of their ropes easily. Attach strings to the ropes that have paper notes with the following words written on individual pieces of paper. The words can be, X-rated pictures, MTV. Beer, uncontrolled anger, jealousy, lying, etc. The notes should be tucked into the persons, pockets or hidden on the volunteer, out of sight of the audience. Disguise the appearance of the helper.

Presentation: The helper comes in with the appearance of being securely tied, with the cross visible for all to see. **Helper:** I'm really determined to follow Jesus. Look, see my cross.

Leader: That's great. Do you mind if I examine how well you are tied to your cross. **Helper:** I'm kinda shy. **Leader:** It's OK no one is here but us. **Helper:** OK, go ahead. The leader tugs on the rope and finds a string. He says, "What's this? **Helper:** Oh, nothing important. **Leader:** Pulls on the string and out comes a piece of paper, "X-rated pictures."

How can you really be tied strongly to Jesus and have this tied to you?

Leader: Pulls more, and soon all the ropes fall off, and there are many strings with notes attached to them. **Leader:** Quickly reads them, "You are not really determined to follow Jesus.

It looks like you are just determined to follow whatever makes you feel good. **Helper:** "Hey, Nobodies perfect!" **Leader:** Yes that is true, we are not perfect, but when we are really tied to Jesus, the ties to Jesus get stronger and the other things like these (hold up pieces of paper), are supposed to be destroyed. It looks like you are not really determined to follow Jesus at all. **Helper:** Stomps off, acting angry. **Leader:** The Bible tells us there are many people who say they follow Jesus. But in truth they only follow their own evil desires. Jesus is the One we are to **determine** to follow. **Flash Point: Determined: I am determined to -- follow Jesus!**

Object Lesson #4

I'm You

I Corinthians 9:27

Props: Hat, puppet, name tag.

Preparation: Make a name tag with the leaders name on it. Place the name tag on the puppet. Either use a one arm puppet which the leader uses, or have someone operate the puppet from behind a puppet stage.

Presentation: Puppet: Hi me! **Leader:** What do you mean, "Hi me?" **Puppet:** Just that. Look I'm you. See my name tag." **Leader:** Reads the name tag. OK, so your name tag says you are me. What does that mean? **Puppet:** I'm your inner man. I'm the real you. **Leader:** If that's the case then I'm the boss. **Puppet:** What do you mean? **Leader:** If you are my inner man, the Bible tells me that we have to be determined to control our inner thoughts and inner or evil desires or else they will lead us away from God.

Puppet: Hey wait a minute. Are you saying, I'm evil? **Leader:** No, not always. Our inner hidden person can also desire to serve God, but it depends on who is invited to be in control.

If we make Jesus the king of our heart then our inner thoughts can be taught to follow Jesus.

The natural desire of our inner man is selfish. Only after we are introduced to Jesus do we learn to love others as He does.

Leader: To the audience. (Feel free to interact with your puppet.) Not all of the dialog is scripted (written down) because you need to be free to interact with the children naturally. If this were written down, it could cause you to lose the effectiveness of naturally interacting with the puppet and the children.) Each one of us have an inner person. What is on the inside is often not seen by many people because we get good at hiding who we really are. If we are determined to follow Jesus we must learn to discipline our inner person.

Our inner person often wants to be lazy or selfish. (Have puppet react). Apostle Paul tells us in the Bible that he would beat his body and make it his slave. (Puppet reacts: Don't you dare beat me!). Now what he was saying was he had to be determined to control himself. Sometimes we get bad thoughts that are not acceptable to a person who is determined to follow Jesus. We need to take control of our inner man. We must be determined that even our hidden thoughts will follow Jesus. **Flash Point: Determined: I am determined to -- follow Jesus!**

Story Time

Dead Man Lives

Picture 22:1 In Thailand in a rice paddy DD a young boy, 15 years old, led the way for the old man he called, Grandpa." The boy called DD had white skin and red hair. He was from the USA. His parents were missionaries. They had come to share the Good News about Jesus. DD and the old man loved being out in the fields. Both liked the countryside.

The old man enjoyed the youth and energy of his little friend. DD was concerned for his adopted Grandpa. The old man was not healthy, often complaining of headaches. DD figured out that it could be all the cigarettes that grandpa smoked. Suddenly Grandpa shouted, "Stop DD!"

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Picture 22:2 DD instantly stopped. He looked back and ask, "What grandpa?" "There's a snake on the trail in front of you." Grandpa said. DD looked ahead and saw the cobra partly hidden in the grass. It was weaving back and forth ready to strike. DD said, "I see it." Suddenly the cobra fell to it's stomach and raced at DD. It crawled between his feet then went out into the rice paddy. Grandpa said, "How did you do that? I've never seen that happen before." DD replied, "I just prayed and asked Jesus to make it go away." Grandpa was silent for a moment, then he quietly asked DD. "Why is it every time you pray to your God he answers, and every time I pray to mine he doesn't?" DD did not hesitate, That's because my God is real and yours isn't." Grandpa and DD walked back to his house. Grandpa was a religious man. He was a spiritual leader of his village. He was not yet ready to change his god.

Picture 22:3 A short while later DD and his family left Thailand and moved to the Philippines. DD never forgot the old man and whenever he thought of his special grandpa he would pray and cry to God that somehow his grandpa friend would accept Jesus as his God. Six years went by. During that time DD grew up and got married. One day he told his wife, "Gai Gai, we are going back to Thailand. We need to check on grandpa." Tears filled his eyes as he said, "I just pray he is still alive."

When they arrived at the place where grandpa's rice fields used to be there was a super freeway. Cars were speeding by. The fields were gone. DD's heart sank, once again tears began to come. "Oh God, please don't let it be too late." He prayed.

Picture 22:4 Through his tears, DD searched for a sight of the old farm house. All of a sudden he saw it. It was down the road, just a short distance away, next to the super-highway. All the other neighbors houses were gone but there was grandpa's house. DD and Gai Gai quickly made there way to the old house. Grandpa's wife saw DD and began to shout, "Grandpa! Come quick, DD's back." There was shouting, and laughter mixed with tears as the family was reunited. DD's prayers had been answered, "Grandpa was still alive, he was strong and healthy." Grandpa had two grandson's who were just a little older than DD. They told DD that grandpa had just told them that morning that DD would be coming back soon. He reminded them that DD had promised him, that when he grew up he would come back an see grandpa again. Grandpa had told his family, "DD is grown up, he'll come back to see me." Even though grandpa did not know DD's God, grandpa had prayed everyday that he would see DD again.

Picture 22:5 Grandpa invited DD and Gai Gai to come stay with them for the rest of their time while they were in Thailand. DD and Gai Gai were thankful for friends to stay with. A few days later DD watched grandpa as he bowed down and said his morning prayers. DD was sad, because he knew that grandpa still did not know Jesus.

LESSON TWENTY-TWO

After grandpa's prayer time DD and grandpa sat together and talked about God. While they were talking one of the twins came in he said, "My brother was crossing the freeway and he was struck by a car!"

Picture 22:6 DD and the twin ran to the freeway. There was broken glass scattered along the road and the body wagon from the morgue or mortuary had already come. DD ran over and said, "Where is he?" The men who pick up dead bodies said, "The corpse is in the back of the truck." Then they left with the body of the twin brother.

Picture 22:7 DD went to the side of the road, his heart hurt as he desperately prayed, "Dear God, please give him that second rare chance.
He doesn't have you in his heart." The family quickly got everything together and left with DD to go to the morgue. Their religion said they had to take care of the body within 24 hours. When they arrived at the morgue, which was next to the hospital, they asked for his body.

Picture 22:8 The attendants looked at their books and they said. "Our men picked up a corpse, but halfway to the hospital, the dead man sat up, and said it wasn't time for him to be dead." The men carrying the body back were very frightened and almost jumped out of the moving pickup. The young man is now checked in the hospital.

The family went into the hospital and the twin brother that was reported dead, was able to go home, within two days, completely well.

Picture 22:9 The twin brother told DD, "When the car hit me, I left my body. I saw my body fly through the air. When you came to where they put me in the truck, I heard you pray, "You ask God to give me a second chance," and then I came back into my body.

Picture 22:10 DD and Gai Gai came to the end of their vacation in Thailand. They were thankful for the time they had and their prayers were that one day God would take them back so that they could again share the Good News with their friends and others in Thailand who do not know the real God.

Wrap Up & Closing Prayer

Final question: Are you determined?