

Assembly

Theme: Determination

Mark 2:1-12

Equipment: a bag of sugar (a big heavy one!)

This week's theme is determination

What is determination?

- Not giving up - keep on going to achieve our goal
- If one way is too hard/blocked, find another way.

Game

Depending on how many bags of sugar/weights you have get a volunteer. The child must hold, with their arms stretched out straight in front them, the bag of sugar up for as long as they can. Time it. Which ever child can hold out the sugar the longest is the winner. Nb. the Childs arms and back must remain straight through out.

Good, so we saw our volunteers being really determined to hold up the weight, they wouldn't give up – they lasted for as long as they could.

Some questions

Who can think of any sportsman who didn't give up - who was determined to achieve his/her goal?

I thought of David Beckham:

- After World Cup 98 he was sent off, but even though he was unpopular after that he carried on playing and eventually became England captain.
- He was dropped from the England squad but even then carried on playing and came back.
- After he left Man Utd and went to America he was determined to play in Italy as well during his holiday to keep his fitness up and to show his enthusiasm to the manager. That would be like you missing lunch to do extra school work!

Barak Obama:

To be the first black President of America, despite all the prejudice he faced.

How/where can you be determined?

- School - to be better than last year/term, behave well/listen/learn
- Teams/clubs - to do well, try your best at clubs in and out of school
- Friends, include everyone and be friendly
- Behaviour - watching our actions

In our game their determination to win was visual, in their faces and actions. So must ours be –

The point

In the Bible there is a story about some men who were determined.

4 friends had a friend who was very ill; he was paralysed. That meant he couldn't walk or even move at all. He had to be carried on a stretcher everywhere. They heard that a man called Jesus was healing people and thought that he could help their friend too. They'd heard that Jesus was in a local house talking to people so they put their friend on the stretcher and went on their way to find Jesus.

1. When they got there they found huge crowds of people around Jesus – people were even crowding around outside the house because they couldn't get in it was so full. But his friends were determined to get their friend to Jesus so they decided to go up to the roof, to try that way instead.
2. It wasn't easy though, in those days the stairs to roofs were on the outside, and the roofs were flat, but to try and get a man on stretcher up was hard, they had to balance him very carefully; but they didn't stop because it was hard, they were determined to get him to Jesus. So they carried on.
3. So, they managed to get round the crowds and up the stairs to the roof, but the only way to get through the roof was to dig through it with their bare hands! Roofs in those days were built of clay, earth and branches, so they got down on their hands and knees and started to dig through it, it would have been very painful I think. All the clay going into their fingernails, their arms aching but they carried on.
4. Finally they made a hole big enough, and had to find a way to lower their paralysed friend down to Jesus. They did it, being very careful. Finally they got their friend to Jesus. Jesus was amazed at the friends and he healed him. He was no longer paralysed but could walk!

All through the friends journey, trying to get to Jesus they could have given up at any point, but they didn't they were determined to get him to Jesus because they believed he could heal their friend. The result of their determination was that he was healed and could walk again.

I'm determined to try and live my life like Jesus, being kind, loving and caring to others; treating people the way I'd like to be treated.

So, what can you be determined to do this week, like the friends in this story?
- For other people and yourself?

Prayer

End