



FAITH & FAMILY CONNECTION



March 27th, 2023

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

PERSEVERANCE

Dictionary.com defines perseverance as: the ability to persist in anything undertaken; maintain a purpose in spite of difficulty, obstacles, or discouragement; continue steadfastly. The Apostle Paul writes in James 1:2-3, "Consider it pure JOY whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that testing of your faith develops perseverance." Do you shout for joy when a problem comes your way? It is only through struggles that our faith becomes stronger and more refined. When a blacksmith refines metal, he starts with a substance that is precious but dull and filled with impurities. It is only through putting it under extreme heat that the metal will begin to change. The impurities are removed and once that happens, the blacksmith takes out a beautiful, durable, pure metal that is so shiny, he can see his own image in it. When the storms of life happen, it is often uncomfortable and hard. But if we fix our eyes on Jesus, the perfecter of our faith, we will come out of the storm stronger, wiser, and able to reflect God's image in a new and better way than we would have before. Praise God for the hard times along with the good, for this is how we grow and persevere for Christ!

Ideas for Families:

- **Read & Discuss together:**
Matthew 14:22-23
- **Pray:** Lord Jesus, help me to keep my thoughts and fixed on you throughout each and every day.

"LET US THROW OFF EVERYTHING THAT HINDERS AND RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE THE RACE MARKED OUT FOR US. LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH."

HEBREWS 12:1-2