

## Character Trait October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> is Determination

### Proverbs 11:3, “The integrity of the upright guides them”

**Character:** the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

**Determination:** Overcoming obstacles in order to reach my goal.

**Derivation:** Determination originates from the Latin *de-* meaning “to limit or fix completely” and *terminare* meaning “to finish or bring to completion.” Determination is recognizing and pursuing the goals that will bring a project to completion.

**De•ter•mi•na•tion** n 1: firmness of purpose, resoluteness, purposefulness; 2: the process of establishing something; 3: the controlling or deciding of something's nature or outcome

**Weekly Verse:** I Corinthians 9:24 “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.”

**Bible Story:** Genesis 32:22-32 tells us the story of Jacob wrestling with an angel, and his refusal to quit until he was blessed.

**Quote:** “Some succeed because they are destined to, but most succeed because they are determined to.”

**Application:** Making choices is a daily activity. Whether decisions are big or small, we use discernment, decisiveness, and —hopefully— wisdom every day. Once we choose to move in a specific direction in our life, however, determination is what keeps us moving forward when the way is rough and the day is long. It is the quality of continuing on and persevering despite obstacles in our path.

Determination begins by making the choice to do the right thing at the right time. However, it does not end with making good decisions. You must put one foot in front of the other and start moving in the correct direction.

Knowing what you should do and doing it may sound easy, but the test comes when opposition to your goal arises.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Describe a time in your life when you showed determination. How did it feel when you achieved your goal?
2. Describe a time in your life when you didn't show determination. How did it feel when you didn't achieve your goal?