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# CULTIVATE ENDURANCE

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## Skill

Cultivate Endurance is the day-to-day discipline of obeying the Lord faithfully over the years out of the overflow of increasing communion with Him.

## Design

Cultivate Endurance (marathon team) > A team of athletes running a marathon together illustrates a group of disciples committed to the Lord and each other as they pursue the end of the Great Commission. The **sketch** is a single athlete running illustrating how each disciple practices running, learns how to run longer and go further, and honors their commitment to never give up.

## Story

Ephesus Leader Reunion (Acts 20:17-38)

This story demonstrates Cultivate Endurance as a kingdom skill because we clearly see the Apostle Paul sharing his story of endurance through many personal trials and ministry challenges to a team of his best friends and faithful supporters. Paul testified of the Holy Spirit's work in his life to help him survive devious plots, personal fears, sleepless nights, and financial struggles.

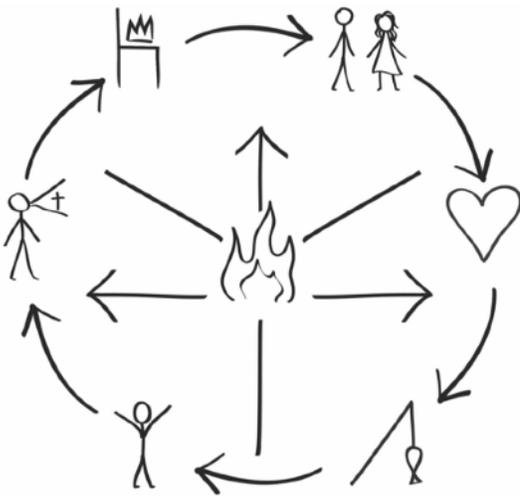
## Scriptures

2 Corinthians 6:4-10 > We commend ourselves by great endurance, difficulties, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, times of hunger, purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, sincere love, the message of truth, the power of God; through weapons of righteousness on the right hand and the left, glory and dishonor, slander and good report, deceivers yet true, unknown yet recognized; as dying and look - we live; as being disciplined yet not killed; as grieving yet always rejoicing; as poor yet enriching many; as having nothing yet possessing everything.

## Lesson Summary

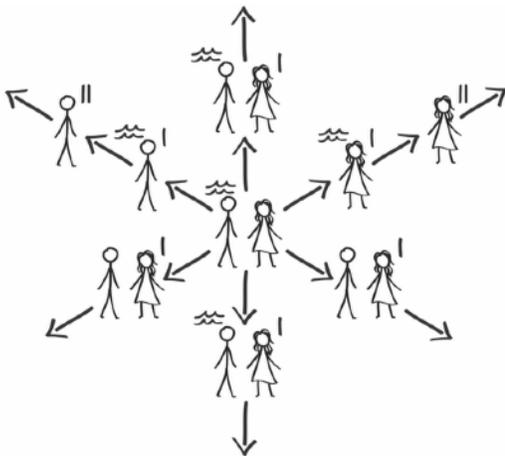
Cultivating Endurance involves steadfastness. We witness such incredible intimacy, friendship, and unity between Paul and the Ephesian elders both through their desire to be in community with one another as well as their boldness to face a martyr's future (Acts 20:36-38). Father Yahweh is sovereign over our lives, and He intentionally exposes His beloved children to faith-testing trials to cultivate our endurance so that we will be complete (James 1:2-4). We rejoice in hope, we are patient through suffering, and we are devoted to the ministry of praying in the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:12).

## Gathering Guide



- Holy Spirit (fire): Let the Spirit guide your meeting.
- **Step One** (back arrow): Last week questions.
- Abide (worshipper): How did you abide last week?
- Harvest (witness): Whom did you share with?
- **Step Two** (up arrow): Discover this week's skill in Scripture as you discuss the Bible story.
- God (throne/crown): What do we learn about God?
- People (man/woman): What do we learn about people?
- Practice: Practice telling this week's story in groups.
- **Step Three** (forward arrow): Next week questions.
- Abide (heart): How will you abide?
- Harvest (fishing): Whom will you share with?

## Generations Map



- People of Peace (people/arrows): Draw your disciples and their disciples. Share recent stories of how you and your team are engaging lost people.
- Baptism (waves): Update your map with those who have been baptized. What is the next step for each disciple who still needs to be baptized or become a baptizer by experience?
- Generations (number lines): Update your map with generations. How can we pray for this movement?