AT THE MOVIES: Part Two
July 12, 2026

Message Summary.
We looked at the incredible story of Trudy Ederle, the first woman to swim the English Channel successfully. Her journey reminds us that following Jesus often requires the same kind of faith and perseverance. God rarely calls us to what is easy, and He always promises to be with us. Great faith is about taking the next faithful step, trusting that God will finish what He has started.

Key Scripture Summaries.
Matthew 13:34 | Jesus often used stories to reveal deeper spiritual truths.
Joshua 1:9 | God commands us to be strong and courageous because He is with us wherever we go.
Philippians 1:6 | God is faithful to complete the work He began in us.
Hebrews 12:1-2 | We endure by fixing our eyes on Jesus and running the race set before us.

Start Talking.
1. What is something difficult you've accomplished that required perseverance?
2. Have you ever attempted something that seemed impossible when you first started?
3. If your life had an "English Channel," what would it represent right now?

Start Thinking.
- Why do you think we often wait until we feel "ready" before obeying God?
- What are some common reasons people quit before finishing what God has called them to do?
- How does knowing God is with us change the way we approach difficult situations?
- Read Philippians 1:6. What does this verse teach us about God's role and our responsibility in spiritual growth?

Start Sharing.
1. Which part of this week's message challenged or encouraged you the most?
2. Which season best describes where you are today?
   - Start small.
   - Face opposition.
   - Endure when it hurts.
   - Finish what God started.
3. What fears, obstacles, or disappointments have tempted you to give up?
4. Who has encouraged you to keep going in your walk with Christ? How did they make a difference?
5. What is one "next faithful stroke" God is asking you to take this week?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Start Praying.
Father, thank You for calling us to trust You one step at a time. Give us courage to begin, strength to endure, and perseverance to finish the work You've called us to do. Help us keep our eyes on Jesus rather than on our circumstances. May we encourage one another to remain faithful, trusting that You will complete the good work You have begun in us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Start Doing.
- Read Philippians 1:6 each day and ask God to strengthen your faith.
- Identify your own "English Channel," the challenge or calling God has placed before you.
- Write down one practical next step you can take this week.
- Ask someone in your small group or family to pray with you and hold you accountable.
- Encourage someone else who may be tempted to quit.