



DISCUSSION GUIDE MARCH 13, 2022

Dive In

Go around and let everyone answer...

Have you ever studied hard for a test in school, started saving money to make a large purchase, or participated in a competition such as a 3K run or a marathon? What was required to make your goal? Did you ever want to give up? If so, why? If you didn't give up, what kept you going? Was there a reward you looked forward to?

Dig Deep

Read Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-2

"¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

- What is the great cloud of witnesses?
- Select one or two of those witnesses and describe the reward they wanted to attain? What were they hoping for that they couldn't see because it was in the future?
- How does remembering the witnesses inspire you to stay faithful?
- What is perseverance and how do you develop or get it?
- What does "fixing our eyes on Jesus" mean? How is it done?
- How is Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of faith? How does knowing this fact bring comfort to you?
- How did Jesus endure all the pain & humiliation of being crucified?

Do Big

- What is "the race marked out" for you?
- What might hinder you from continuing to run, other than obvious sin?
- What is the sin that you are most tempted to give in to? How does it entangle you and keep you from running your race?
- How does considering the persecution and shame Jesus faced help us not to grow weary?
- Are you able to have faith and keep your eyes on Jesus as you run your race, or are you more like Peter trying to walk on the water in Matthew 14: 28-31?



LEADERS

Read Hebrews 11 & 12

Key Thoughts

Living a godly life on earth could be seen as a long-distance race that requires endurance to complete. If we get distracted by the sinful and selfish world around us, our faith may get so shaky that we start to grow weary, lose heart and eventually give up. To persevere we need to keep our focus on Jesus every day.

Challenge

Pray this week for the Holy Spirit to reveal the race or task that God has given you. Also pray that the Holy Spirit will provide perseverance, and everything needed to finish your assignment.

Weekly Memory Verse

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."

Acts 20:24