



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“THE RACE” ON MAY 19 AND 22, 2022

CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed affect your week?

DISCOVER: HEBREWS 12:1-3

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

HEBREWS 12:1-3 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. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

THEREFORE.....Having journeyed through Hebrews 11 Hall of Faith for the past weeks, how are you viewing your own faith journey as a result of studying the lives of these heroes of faith? We don’t run this race alone!

- How have the stories of the ‘cloud of witnesses’ who ran their races with perseverance encouraged you on your faith journey? Whose story/challenges/steps of faith could you most identify with?
- The ‘cloud of witnesses’ represents generations of believers who have gone before us and faced the same issues we do – having to make personal sacrifices they thought were too much, feeling a job was bigger than they were equipped to do, feeling their past disqualified them to do God’s work - Did any particular story ‘breathe life into you’ and give you new perspective for running with perseverance the race ‘marked out for us’?
- What does ‘the race marked out for us’ mean to you? How will you prepare for that race?

THROW OFF EVERYTHING THAT HINDERS AND THE SIN THAT SO EASILY ENTANGLES....We can’t run with weights!

- Does the idea of throwing off EVERYTHING that hinders us – removing it so we can never get it back – seem overwhelming to you? What ONE thing could you begin throwing off today – something that is weighing you down or leading you toward a LACK of FAITH to complete the race Jesus has invited you into?
- Can you see that you have a CHOICE to make a decisive decision and have a consistent attitude of following Jesus, or is your tendency to let life happen to you on its own?

FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS! Don’t run blind!

- What does it mean to you that Jesus is the “Author and Perfector’ of our faith? How does that shape your perspective on your spiritual walk?
- Every single day, what is your primary focus? What is your vision locked in/on to from the moment you wake up – yourself, your circumstances, or your Savior? If your eyes are NOT fixed on Jesus, what are you willing to change?

JESUS ENDURED THE CROSS FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM...Every race has a beginning and an ending and requires a lot of the runner. Jesus endured suffering on the cross beyond what any of us will ever experience in our own struggles, but He never quit – He scorned the shame. He kept running the race and ultimately sat down at the right hand of the throne of God! Don’t stop running!

- Verse 3 asks you to ‘consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart’ – how does that verse challenge you and encourage you when you are struggling to persevere?



SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

THEREFORE.....WHAT NOW? What will your race look like?

- In light of what you have experienced in exploring Hebrews 11 and 12:1-3, what now? Like Jesus, can you cling to the cross? What does your race look like – are you running for temporal or eternal rewards?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.