

GROWTH GROUP STUDY

REFLECT

1. *Who is your favorite athlete? Is there a sporting event—either your own or another game—that is especially memorable to you?*
2. *What must athletes “forget” or lay aside in order to grow in their skills? Why? Talk about how this is a metaphor for the Christian life.*

WEEK 14

ENCOUNTER

Even though we often look to Paul as one of the “best Christians” ever, he did not view himself that way. Paul did not consider himself to have attained the prize of perfection in Christ. Paul viewed the Christian life as a race, and he gave it his all. But he ran in the strength of Jesus because he knew Christ already completed the race for us. Read Hebrews 12:1-3 together and look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

3. *What is the context? Who are the witnesses in verse 1? What do they do?*
4. *What must runners lay aside to run their race well? Share some examples with one another.*
5. *How did Jesus run his race? What obstacles did he face?*
6. *According to verse 3, why should we consider Jesus?*

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TRANSFORM

7. *What did you need to hear from this weeks' sermon? What questions did you have?*

8. The Christian life is not passive. It requires effort and hard work. But the Christian life is all about grace we can never work hard enough to deserve God or his favor. *Do those ideas contradict one another? Why or why not?*

9. *What is God calling you to forget or lay aside to run forward in the Christian life?*

10. *Why is Christ worth it?*