



Turning Point Bible Fellowship

Turning People Towards Christ
TURNINGPOINTBFC.ORG — 2 CHRONICLES 7:14

Choosing by Faith to run the Race

Personal or group-based guide for additional study

Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Begin by asking God to help each person identify what might be hindering them from finishing their race and to give courage to follow through on His calling.

Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when you started something important but struggled to finish it. What made it difficult? Did you eventually complete it?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. God has chosen each believer for a specific purpose - We didn't choose Him; He chose us (John 15:16)
 2. We must intentionally remove weights and sins - Anything that hinders our race must be laid aside (Hebrews 12:1)
 3. Finishing requires faith, not just our own strength - God works in us to accomplish His purposes (Philippians 2:13)
 4. We have a "great cloud of witnesses" - Biblical heroes and people in our lives who have finished well inspire us
 5. Jesus is our ultimate example - He endured the cross for the joy set before Him—us (Hebrews 12:2)
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Race (10-15 minutes)

1. What does "finishing the race" mean in practical terms for your life right now? What specific assignment or calling has God placed on your heart?
 2. The pastor mentioned that it's not enough to just be in church—you must be born again. How would you explain the difference between being religious and having a genuine relationship with Christ?
 3. Read Hebrews 12:1-3 together. What stands out to you most from this passage? Why is it significant that we're "surrounded" by witnesses?
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Identifying Weights and Sins (15-20 minutes)

4. The sermon distinguished between "weights" (not necessarily bad things) and "sins". Can you think of examples of good things that might be weights holding you back from God's best?
 5. What are some common weights or sins that easily distract believers today? (Examples might include: unforgiveness, bitterness, busyness, comparison, fear of what others think, etc.)
 6. The pastor shared about wearing weights during track practice. What "weights" might you need to lay aside to run your race more effectively? (Pause for personal reflection; sharing is optional)
 7. How can sin prevent us from enjoying our relationship with God? The sermon mentioned Samson as someone who fulfilled God's purpose but never built a relationship with Him. What's the danger in this?
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Looking to Jesus (10-15 minutes)

8. Hebrews 12:2 tells us to look "unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." What does it mean that Jesus is both the "author" and "finisher"? How does this encourage you?
 9. The pastor emphasized that Jesus' joy was us—that's why He endured the cross. How does knowing you were Jesus' motivation change how you view your own race?
 10. The sermon warned about taking our eyes off the goal (like the pastor did in his race when he looked back). What are some ways we "look back" or get distracted from what God has called us to do?
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Sharing Christ with Others (10-15 minutes)

11. The pastor shared powerful stories about witnessing to others—some taking seven years to come to Christ. What challenges do you face in sharing your faith? What encourages you?
 12. The pastor prays each morning: "Holy Spirit, who do you have on my list today?" How might adopting this practice change your daily perspective?
 13. Who has God placed in your life that might be challenging but needs to hear about Jesus? How can this group pray for and support you in that relationship?
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Personal Application (10-15 minutes)

14. The pastor said, "I don't want nobody to do what I'm supposed to do." Why is it important that each of us takes our individual assignment seriously?
15. What is one specific step you can take this week to:
 - Remove a weight or sin that's hindering you?
 - Build your relationship with God?
 - Share Christ with someone He's placed in your life?
16. How can we help each other finish well? What kind of accountability or encouragement would be helpful?



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Practical Action Steps

Choose one or more to commit to this week:

- [] Morning Prayer Practice: Each morning this week, pray: "Holy Spirit, who do you have on my list today? Use me for Your purposes."
- [] Weight Identification: Spend time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to reveal any weights or sins you need to lay aside. Write them down and confess them.
- [] Witness Preparation: Identify one person God has placed in your life who needs to hear about Jesus. Pray for them daily and look for an opportunity to share this week.
- [] Scripture Memorization: Memorize Hebrews 12:1-2 to keep the message of finishing the race fresh in your mind.
- [] Relationship Check: If applicable, examine your relationships (especially with your spouse) to ensure nothing is hindering your prayers (1 Peter 3:7).
- [] Study the Witnesses: Read Hebrews 11 and pick one "witness" who inspires you. Study their story and share what you learn with the group next time.

Closing Reflection

Read together: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."* (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

Final Question: What would it mean for you to be able to say these words at the end of your life?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

- Pray for strength to finish the race God has set before each person
- Ask God to remove weights and sins that hinder
- Pray for boldness to share Christ with those He's placed in our lives
- Thank Jesus for enduring the cross for us
- Ask for the Holy Spirit's daily guidance and power

For Next Week

- Share testimonies of how you applied this week's message
- Report on any divine appointments God arranged
- Discuss progress on removing weights and finishing the race

Memory Verse for the Week: *"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."* (Hebrews 12:1)