

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



These discussion questions are designed to extend the impact of the Sunday message. You can use them for your personal Bible study, family study, and/or small group study.

Overview

Sermon: *Greater Kingdom*. Bottom line: *You are surrounded*.

*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, **fixing our eyes on Jesus...** - Hebrews 12:1-2a (NIV)*

The believers in the book of Hebrews, like Jesus, were being persecuted at the hands of sinners but unlike Jesus they had not suffered death. You may be suffering under sin and have become tired and weary. Hebrews chapter 12 gives us reasons to hold on to faith when we are enduring hardships. With Jesus you can have an unshakable faith and not lose heart.

You are not alone in your suffering. We are not the only ones to endure hardship. There is a large group of faithful people who preceded us that paved the way to receive the promises of God through Jesus. With faith you are surrounded. This “cloud of witnesses” surrounds us and encourages us to run the race of life with the freedom that comes from being unhindered by sin.

Discussion

1. What are some benefits about being part of a team? How is following Jesus more like a team sport than an individual sport (think golf versus basketball)?
2. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. There are many people who suffered persecution for the name of Jesus and died. They are commended for their faith. What do you think it means that we are surrounded by them? How are they witnesses? How can knowing this help us to endure hardship? How can their testimony draw us close to Jesus?
3. Read the story of Elisha and the Arameans in 2 Kings 6:8-17. Elisha and his servant found themselves surrounded by the Syrian army. How did God respond? What is it that the Enemy has surrounded you with? The enemy may surround the city but God surrounds the hills. You may not always be protected from pain but God’s got you covered. How does knowing that God is greater than whatever has surrounded you give you encouragement and strength?
4. Read Hebrews 12:4-13. Just as Elisha’s servant was given eyes to see his situation differently. From Hebrews 12:4-13, how can you choose to interpret your hardships differently? What can our hardships produce in us or change us through faith?

Application

5. What has God revealed to you through his word? What is He calling you to believe? To do?
6. How can you choose this week to persevere in faith knowing that you are surrounded by God?

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