**Hebrews- Greater Than**

**Running the Race of Your Life- Week #11**

**Small Group Notes**

**June 24 and 27, 2021**

**Introduction:**

Have you ever competed in a long or short distance race? What is the difference in how you prepare for either one?

How can the goals differ between a long and short distance race? What does the phrase mean, “The Christian life is not mean to be a sprint but a marathon.” How have you seen this phrase to be true in your life?

**For the last session in the Hebrews series we are going to discuss Hebrews 12:1-3. You may want to begin by reading this passage in its entirety.**

**Discuss: Running the race of your life:**

1. Remember that it has been done!

* Read Hebrews 12:1
* The great cloud are witnesses to us not witnesses of us!
* Who is bearing witness to me in my trial? (Am I listening to the witnesses?)
* What type of witness is my life bearing? (Do others really see Jesus in my life or a bad version of him?)

Explain: In the mind’s eye, the author pictures these previous champions of faith as spectators from the heavens, cheering us on as we press on to overcome present discouragement as in an athletic competition.

Ask:

**Read Hebrews 12:1, who are some of the witnesses in your life?**

**Who is God calling you to be a witness to today of your faith?**

2. Remember to lighten up!

* Read Hebrews 12:1
* Those who finish the race in the future have a proactive plan for sin today!
* Turning away from sin turns up the speed!
* Faithful finishers learn to cast off the good things to experience the God things.

Explain: Sin can hold us back. But there are also things that may not be sin (**every weight**) but are merely hindrances that can keep us from running effectively the race God has for us.

Ask:

**What are some good things that are keeping me from the best thing?**

**Why do we struggle with holding onto sin that shows us time and time again how it entangles us?**

**Do you have someone that is currently holding you accountable from being entangled?**

3. Run from a place of victory not for victory!

* Read Hebrews 12:2, Philippians 1:6
* Running for victory produces quitters while running from a place of victory produces worshippers

Explain: The Greek word for ‘looking’ is a much fuller word than we can find in the English language. It has a preposition in it which turns the look away from everything else. You are to look from all beside to Jesus. Fix not thy gaze upon the cloud of witnesses; they will hinder thee if they take away thine eye from Jesus. Look not on the weights and the besetting sin-these thou hast laid aside; look away from them. Do not even look upon the race-course, or the competitors, but look to Jesus and so start in the race.”- Spurgeon

Ask:

**Have I been running for victory or from victory?**

**Perform a word search of the Bible for the word “victory.” What are some ways you are encouraged by reading these verses?**

4. Those who finish the race realize it is worth it!

* Read Hebrews 12:2-3
* The race of life is full of value propositions
* Read Galatians 6:9

Explain: Even in difficulty if we **consider** Jesus we can be *encouraged*, not *discouraged*, knowing that we are following in the footsteps of Jesus. As Paul wrote, *if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together* ([Romans 8:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/romans/8/17/s_1054017)). Therefore, knowing that Jesus doesn’t ask more of us than what He has Himself experienced, and that He knows exactly what we are going through keeps us from becoming **weary and discouraged in your souls**.

Ask:

**Is He greater than \_\_\_\_\_? (fill in the blank)**

**Go back over your notes from the sermon series and discuss what is something that surprised you, encouraged you, challenged you?**

**How has this sermon series broadened or strengthened your view of Jesus?**