

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of August 1-7, 2022

## “CHRISTIAN: RUN WITHOUT THE ENCUMBRANCE, RUN WITH ENDURANCE, RUN WITH FOCUS ON GOD’S SON!”

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### GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

When you think of sports, what images or experiences come to your mind?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

Read HEBREWS 12:1-2.

1. Do you think that the great cloud of witnesses that the Hebrew writer is speaking of are just passive spectators watching over us and the decisions that we make? Who is someone that you look up to because of their faith? How would you characterize this person?
2. What is the difference between an encumbrance (NASB) and sin? What do you think are the “encumbrance” and “sin” that the author is concerned about (Hebrews 12:1) What kinds of things could be encumbrances, but are not necessarily sin?
3. How do you feel that receiving the great joy of your salvation required a great cost of suffering from Jesus? What are you willing to endure for him? How can the Christian faith give you more great joy and purpose for living? What will you do?
4. Have you ever decided to be accountable with someone about some way that you wanted to change? Was that helpful? Why or why not? If we are going to be accountable with someone, what are some important considerations at both ends of the relationship?
5. What is the significance of “looking to Jesus” in contrast to “looking away from” Jesus? Are there any things in your life that sometimes capture your attention away from Jesus? Why does it matter where we actually look?

6. What does it mean to look to Jesus as our author and perfecter of our faith? When we look to Jesus as the author of faith, how does this transform our direction? When we look to Jesus as the perfecter of faith, how does this transform our effort?
7. How is your endurance strengthened by the fact that great people have gone before you who had much less and did so much more? If others have trusted in Christ in the face of great lows and highs, how does this influence you in those times?

### 8. NEXT STEPS

*Look to Jesus who endured the cross, disregarded the shame, for the joy set before him.*

- ☐ I will look to Jesus alone, the author and perfecter of my faith.
- ☐ By God’s grace, I will fight the good fight of faith and run with perseverance the race set before me.
- ☐ I will get rid of the encumbrance of the cares of this world and the sin that weigh me down.
- ☐ I will share Jesus with others, and reach out to my friends and loved ones.

*Don’t forget to:*

- ☐ Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.

### CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a heart that is focused on Jesus.
- Pray for the strength of the Holy Spirit to be able to run with endurance the race that is set before us.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who’s going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

August 1	2 Timothy 2:1-10
August 2	Matthew 14:22-32
August 3	Psalms 62
August 4	Psalms 55:1-22
August 5	James 5:7-11
August 6	Revelations 4:8-11
August 7	Philippians 1:9-11