

DISCUSSION IDEAS  
**THE RACE**

Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHAT DOES BEING IN A RACE IMPLY?**

Think about having been in a race, or of some race you have watched.

How do words like discipline, focus, pain, fatigue apply?

Have you ever watched a marathon or Iron Man race winner be helped into the first aid tent at the end of their race?

How do terms like intense joy and satisfaction fit this scenario?

What made running the race worth all the effort and pain?

Now read Heb. 12:1-2.

Remember, the readers of this message were suffering persecution and pain. What were they tempted to do?

Review the encouragements given in Heb. 10:19-25 and 32-39.

What was the alternative stated in Heb. 10:26-31? Remember, this refers to the physical death and suffering prophesied by Jesus in Luke 21:20-24.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: HOW IS BEING DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BEFORE GOD RELATED TO FAITH (TRUST), AS OPPOSED TO WORKS?**

Look at Heb.11:1-2 and v.39.

Compare Genesis 15:6 and Hebrews 11:6.

So what does our effort gain us as we run the race?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: WE ARE NOT ALONE!**

Remember, the Law was a huge issue to these readers. How many of the examples in 11:1-29 involved people under the Law of Moses?

Look at the examples in Heb. 11:29-31. Note how unique each situation was. What encouragement did these folks have? And yet they trusted God!

Read about those mentioned in Heb 11:32-38.

Think about having a crowd cheering you on, and you know that each of them had gone through something as bad you are experiencing, or worse.

Remember: Isolation is ALWAYS destructive. There is plenty of proof for that.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT FOUR: WE BELONG! WE ARE A PART OF GOD'S PLAN.**

Why did these people of God, who had trusted Him with their entire being, NOT receive God's promised future in their lifetimes?

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Look at Heb. 11:29-40.

Discuss the value and importance God has placed on including YOU.

What is the encouragement of Heb. 6:11-12?

♦ **REFLECTION: ALLOW NO HINDRANCES.**

Spend a lot of time this week mulling over the commands of Hebrews 12:1-2.

Who wants to run a race wearing boots and a backpack? (Sure, sometimes it is important to train that way. Just ask any one in military special operations!)

What is "the sin" that is my unique flaw? Does God offer help with that?

How do I build up endurance? (v. 1)

Where my mind is focused has an enormous effect on my success. Where should I be looking? (v. 2) How do I do that?

**REGARDING JESUS:**

On Sunday, we were reminded to not dumb down Jesus' accomplishments.

Remember, Jesus operated on Earth as human. He relied entirely on the Holy Spirit for power.

He faced what we face. Review Heb. 4:15.

He does understand our problems.

Jesus sent the same Spirit of God to be in us to guide and help us. Look at 1 Tim. 1:14 and 1 Cor. 3:16 and 6:19.

**GOD'S PROMISES:**

The folks in Hebrews 11 knew and believed God's promises.

How do God's promises help me keep focused?

How can I know what these promises are?

Am I committed to spending time reading and thinking about God's Word?