

LG | LeaderGuide

[Primary Text: Hebrews 12:1-11]

PRAY

Pause. Acknowledge that you are about to open God's word.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate His word.

WARM-UP

Prepare our minds to receive God's word.

- When reflecting on the message this past Sunday, what most resonated with you?
- What would you say was the most important thing the church as a whole could take away from Sunday's message?

ILLUMINATE

Open your Bibles to the primary text. If you do not have a Bible, your leader can provide one.

- Let's read together our primary text. What major themes do you see here?
[Endurance, Perseverance, Laying aside weight/sin, looking to/considering Jesus, God's design and purpose for discipline](#)
- Who are those who make up "the great cloud of witnesses"? What do you think they would be saying to us today?
[The cloud of witnesses are all the Old Testament saints listed in chapter 11. They would say keep running! Look to Jesus, look to Him, the hope set before you. Look at my life, I was a sinner, but I did it! You can do it too. Look to Jesus!](#)
- What does it mean when scripture tells us in verse 1 to "lay aside every weight"? What do you think those weights are for us?
[Every person has areas in their life that are weights. Modern examples could be; television, social media, the type of music they listen to, video games, etc. If you are in Christ, you will have convictions that the Holy Spirit gives you concerning these things, but many choose to ignore these promptings. These things aren't inherently "bad" things as defined by our culture, but your conscious bears witness that they are not worthy pursuits. These things are the weights that need to be shed so that we can run the race set before us.](#)
- The author provides us with the imagery of a race that is set before us. What are the key elements to enduring this race? How does the looking to Jesus actually help us?
[Laying aside weight/sin and looking to Jesus. Jesus was fully human and endured this life, fully as a human. His endurance through pain and suffering even to the point of death allows us to look to him as our source of encouragement, strength and hope of what is possible by the power of God.](#)

Because Jesus was the founder and perfecter (source and finisher) of our faith, we can look to Him to endure and finish this race called life.

- Verses 3-11 address the discipline of God. What do you think it is speaking about when using the term discipline?

Training. Discipline is the sharpening or maturing of your faith. Discipline can often be painful, but it is not simply just a painful moment in life, oftentimes it is God is teaching us, helping us to avoid future pitfalls and to train us to endure the hardships of this life.

- Verses 5b and 6 are indented. Where does this text come from? What is the context?

These verses are from Proverbs 3:11-12. King Solomon often wrote Proverbs directed to his own sons, so that they too might have wisdom as future kings. He does not want his sons to diminish the importance of being disciplined by the Lord, as this is one of the ways the Lord displays his love for us.

- If you are disciplined by God, what conclusions can you draw based on the explanations of discipline in this text?

We are loved (v6), we are sons (v7), we will share his holiness (v.10), we will yield peaceful fruit of righteousness as a result (v.11)

- How does this passage bring you joy?

Knowing that Jesus lived a fully human life and endured so much so that I might be able to look to him as a source of strength, is pretty astonishing. Knowing that God disciplines us as sons, because we are considered sons, is pretty astonishing. Knowing that God sent his own son, whom he loved, to die and atone for sinners, is pretty astonishing.

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. What does tonight's conversation lead you to pray for?