

IN STEP WITH THE SAVIOR: THE PACE OF EVERYDAY DISCIPLESHIP

HEBREWS 12:1-2

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – MAY 18, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 12:1-2

13 He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. 14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. 15 And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 17 And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

BIG IDEA

The Christian life is a long-distance race, not a sprint—and we run it best by keeping the PACE:

Pursue Christ daily, Abandon what hinders, Connect with community, and Engage in His mission.

SERMON OVERVIEW

This message, rooted in Hebrews 12:1-2, challenges believers to shift from striving to steadfast endurance in their faith journey. Using the image of a race and a relatable story of running with his daughter, the pastor illustrates how discipleship isn't about outperforming others—it's about walking with Jesus and helping others do the same. We're called **to keep the pace**—not speed ahead or burn out, but **to stay in step with the Savior** every day.

PACE Summary

P – Pursue Christ Daily

"...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:2)

- The Word of God – Psalm 119:105
- Prayer – Philippians 4:6-7
 - "Prayer is the greater work." —Oswald Chambers
 - "A Christian can't last without Scripture."
 - "Pursuing Jesus isn't about intensity—it's about intimacy."

A – Abandon Every Weight

"...lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely..." (Hebrews 12:1)

- Weight = Good things that become ultimate things – Hebrews 12:1
- Sin = Tangling vines that trap us
 - "Too much weight kills your ability to fight."
 - "Sin fascinates... then assassinates."
 - "You can't follow Jesus at a full sprint if you're dragging a cart of distractions."

C – Connect with Believers

"...we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..." (Hebrews 12:1)

- Fellowship – Acts 2:42
- Community – Hebrews 10:24-25
 - "Rahab's past was scarlet, but God's grace is crimson."
 - "Grace means nobody's too bad to be forgiven—and nobody's too good to need it." —Charles Swindoll
 - "To be fully known and truly loved is what we need more than anything." —Tim Keller

E – Engage in the Mission



MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH

“...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...” (Hebrews 12:1)

- Time – Ephesians 5:15-16
- Treasure – Matthew 6:21
- Talents – Ephesians 2:10
- “You just need to know a few great things that are worth living for and dying for.” —John Piper
- “You’re not saved by serving—but you are saved for serving.” —Adrian Rogers

SUMMARY

This sermon invites us to step away from religious performance and into relational persistence. We’re not called to outrun others—but to finish faithfully. The PACE model gives us a rhythm to follow: pursue Jesus daily, let go of burdens, walk with others, and live on mission. It’s not about impressing God—it’s about trusting Him, running toward Him, and inviting others along.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

If you had to race against a five-year-old dressed as a superhero, what would your superhero power be—and how would you try to win? (*Have fun and let people get creative before diving into deeper questions.*)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: *What does the passage say?*

1. What imagery stands out to you in Hebrews 12:1-2?
2. What does the phrase “cloud of witnesses” suggest to you?
3. What contrasts do you notice between “weight” and “sin” in verse 1?
4. What does it mean that Jesus “endured the cross” for the joy set before Him?

Interpretation: *What does the passage mean?*

1. Why do you think the author uses a race to describe the Christian life?
2. What might the phrase “fix your eyes on Jesus” look like practically?
3. Why is community described as essential and not optional for discipleship?
4. What does it mean to “engage in the mission”? How is this tied to endurance?

Application: *How can we apply this passage to our lives?*

1. What’s one way you can pursue Jesus more intentionally this week (Word or prayer)?
2. Is there a weight or sin God is calling you to lay down right now?
3. Are you connected to a faith community that supports and challenges you? What’s your next step?
4. How can you better use your time, treasure, or talents for God’s mission this month?

REFLECTION PROMPT

As you consider the four aspects of PACE, which one needs the most attention in your life right now?

Write it down. Name it. Then ask God for help taking one bold, practical step forward this week.

Let’s keep the PACE—and run in step with the Savior.

“The Runner’s Faith”

The race of faith demands enduring pace,

Not sprinting past the souls who struggle on,

But finding in each step Amazing Grace,



*With eyes fixed on the Christ when strength is gone.
We lay aside the weights that cling so tight—
Those sins that tangle feet and slow our stride;
While witnesses of old cheer through the night,
Their faithful stories serve as heaven's guide.
Pursue the Lord in prayer and living Word,
Abandon burdens at the cross's base,
Connect with saints whose hearts are likewise stirred,
Engage the mission with redeeming grace.
Not climbing ladders to appease the throne,
But resting in the work Christ did alone.*

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Inspired by Hebrews 12:1-2