

Home Group Leader's Notes
Week of November 5, 2023

Sermon Series: *Endurance*

Hello Brothers and Sisters. We need this series if we are going to fight the good fight and be overcomers in this battle. Please encourage your group to pray, to encourage each other, and to cling to God's words.

WHEN WAS THIS TRUE FOR YOU?

Our passage calls up the people who have gone before us that have endured well. Who, in your life, has been a solid example of endurance in the storms of life?

Family member? friend? coach? Hopefully, you will all have friends who model endurance through the storms.

GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS

For two thousand years, "Hebrews" chapter twelve has been an anchor in the storms of life. Let's begin by reading Hebrews 12:1-14.

What is your first impression as you read this passage?

There is struggle in this life. To do well, we need to follow Jesus' example, and not grow weary and give up or give in.

In your own words, what is the author challenging the recipients (and us) to do? (1-3)

The command of this passage is to run the race set before us with endurance by keeping our eyes on Jesus who endured for us. We can expect challenge, the discipline (shaping) of the Lord, and a need to live with resolve, with endurance.

What is encouraging to you as you consider God's work in your life to shape you? (5-8)

God is always working to shape His children and does so in love. The end result will be a person who is more righteous, stronger, and lives with the promise of eternal life with God Himself.

Can you think of a time in your life that was painful at the time but yielded fruit? (11)

(Perhaps this is better as a discussion question. This could be a connecting and deepening question to discuss.)

University that taught me to learn, working under a difficult boss that made me turn to God alone, a car accident that forced me to be alone and with time to learn to read God's Word, etc.

The call to apply this challenge gets very practical in 11-14. Which of these speaks to your life? How is the inspiration of models and purpose above helpful in this endeavor?

(Perhaps this is better as a discussion question. This could be a connecting and deepening question to discuss.)

DISCUSS TOGETHER

In order to run with endurance (perseverance), the author challenges us to “lay aside/ throw off” things that hinder and sin. What kinds of weights do you have? What kinds of sins? (1) What real application might this mean in our lives? How can we help each other in this effort?

Are people in your group at the place where they can trust one another in these personal matters? The more we trust, the more we can learn to be real with one another and pray, love, and support. I am guessing that you don't often confess your sins to one another, but James calls us to get to this place. (James 5:16)

Two sets of examples are given as witnesses and models of what God can do in our lives. How might this be inspiration to us today? What can we need to do to be inspiration and motivation to one another to run the race with endurance?

God has given us Jesus and witnesses and models. In our world of divas, influencers, and stars, we need to keep our eyes on Jesus. How can we do this? How can they be our motivators?

Pastor Doug shared three keys to endurance. 1. Remember, you are not alone, 2. Remember where your faith comes from – Jesus is your model. 3. Remember, God is training you for holiness and not randomly allowing pain in your life. (Cross reference branch two in our discipleship model.) Which of these is helpful to you right now in your life?

This is a good time to listen well and encourage one another.

Praying for God's loving work of shaping us,
Steve