

## Hebrews Bible Study

### Hebrews 11:32-12:3

#### *The Race of Faith*

#### Outline

1. Introduction
  - A. A Long Distance Race
  - B. A Review – The Race So Far
2. What To Expect in the Race of Faith - Hebrews 11:32-40
  - A. The Achievements of Faith (11:32-35a)
  - B. The Suffering of Faith (11:35b-38)
  - C. The Togetherness of Faith (11:39-40)
3. How to Run Your Race of Faith – Hebrews 12:1-3
  - A. Prepare to run your race (12:1a)
  - B. Run your own race (12:1b)
  - C. Look to Jesus for your race (12:2-3)

#### To Discuss Next Week

1. Hebrews 11:32-35a lists a few people and many of the achievements of faith. Please look at these verses as you answer the following questions:
  - A. What do you know about the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, Samuel, David, and the prophets?
  - B. As you look at the achievements of faith, which Old Testament people and stories are examples of those achievements?
  - C. In both the people and the achievements, what do you learn about faith? How does this apply to our lives today?
2. Hebrews 11:35b-38 lists the sufferings God's people of faith endured as they were persecuted. Please look at these verses as you answer the following questions:
  - A. As you look at the suffering God's people endured during the Old Testament time, which people and stories come to mind?
  - B. Read John 15:18-25. What does Jesus say about why God's people are persecuted for their faith? What impact does his words have on you?
  - C. In what ways does it encourage you to know that God's people of faith were enabled to persevere even under the worst circumstances imaginable?
3. In 11:39-40, what does the author mean when he says that God planned something better us? And how are the Old Testament saints are only "made perfect" together with us?

4. In 12:1, the author says that we should throw off the things that hinder us as we persevere in the race, as well as the sin that easily entangles. What is the Lord revealing to you that you need to throw off?
5. The race we are running is marked out for us individually, and it is an endurance run, rather than a sprint. As you think about both of those things, and pray about them, what is God teaching you about your race of faith?
6. The author of Hebrews says that we are enabled to run the race when we fix our eyes on Jesus. That's what faith does. Consider 12:2-3 as you answer the following questions:
  - A. What does it mean that Jesus is the "pioneer and perfecter of faith"? How do you see that in his life, death and resurrection?
  - B. In vs. 2-3, what specific things do we consider about Jesus? How does that help you "not grow weary and lose heart"?
  - C. Katie taught that when we fix our eyes on Jesus and consider him, we need to do it primarily as our Savior, rather than our example. She also taught that when we look to him as our Savior, our hearts are changed, and we naturally follow his. Explain how this works in your own life.
  - D. Romans 8:28-39 is a great example of what it means to "consider Jesus". What do you learn from this passage?
  - E. As you "consider Jesus" from everything we've learned about him in Hebrews so far, what sticks out to you? How does it change you?
  - F. Katie also taught that Jesus is a person who is with you in the present (rather than just someone who saved you in the past and who you will bring you to glory in the future). How does knowing he is with you now help you persevere in your race?