
The Champion of Our Faith (12:1-17)

Fixing our Eyes on Jesus (12:1-3)

1. The imagery of a race is vividly depicted in this chapter (cf. Acts 20:24, 2 Tim. 4:7-8, 1 Cor. 9:24-27). Carefully examine the text and describe the scene with as much detail as you can.
2. Describe the type of race and how we are to run this race. What is the difference between “weight” and “sin” (cf. 5:11-14 & 6:4-8)?
3. Why are the “spectators” referred to as “so great a cloud of *witnesses*” (cf. 11:2, 4, 5, 13, 26, 39, 40) ?
4. Jesus is depicted as the founder (can be translated as “champion”, “pioneer”) and perfecter of *our* faith. Given what we know about faith in the previous chapter, how does Jesus champion and perfect our faith?
5. What was the “joy set before” Jesus (Jn. 16:20-24; 17:13)? What does it mean that Jesus “despised the shame” of the cross (“despised” can be translated as “disregarded”)?

Enduring Discipline (12:4-11)

6. The preacher has previously described the familial relationship with God through Jesus Christ (cf. 3:1, 6; 2:10-13). Given what you know about the context of Proverbs, what is the main point of this quotation in Prov. 3:11-12?

7. “Discipline” (*paideia*) can be translated as “education” or “training”. What are the risks of not receiving *paideia*? Benefits?

Response to Discipline (12:12-17)

8. What should our response be to discipline (cf. 12:12-13)?

9. What is a “root of bitterness” (Deut. 29:18-21; 1 Cor. 5:6;)? How was this warning specifically pertinent to the original hearers situation? In what ways can we become a “root of bitterness” (2 Tim. 2:14-19)?

10. How can we act like Esau with our inheritance today (Heb. 10:35)?