

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

Hebrews 12:1-3

This coming weekend is DNOW for our church's youth. Adam Beutel, from Mission Road Bible Church, will be preaching a special sermon. While DNOW is the impetus, this passage is a wonderful reminder for us all. As usual, remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Hebrews 12:1-3.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The verbs are underlined. The main clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops or explains previous clauses. As the class progresses, you will have the opportunity to learn how to do this yourself.

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely,
and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,
despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself,
so that you may not grow weary
or fainthearted.

1. Grammar lesson: What is the “therefore” there for? When you see a “therefore,” what should you always remember to do to make sure you are seeing the verse in its proper context?

2. Who is the “cloud of witnesses” to whom the author refers? (Hint: Where should this “therefore” prompt you to look?)

3. What does Paul mean by “let us run ... the race”? To what race is he referring?

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4. Is “the race that is set before us” a sprint or a marathon? What in the text tells you so?
5. What are we supposed to run without?
6. What are we supposed to run with?

❖ Day 2

Read Hebrews 12:1-3 again.

7. “Let us run” is the main verb in the passage. In the Greek, the other phrases in verses 1-2 are participles that elaborate on the call to run. For each one, describe how that phrase should encourage our endurance.
 - a. Being surrounded by a cloud of faithful witnesses
 - b. Laying aside the weights and sin that ensnare us
 - c. Looking to Jesus as the founder and perfecter (completer) of our faith

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8. “Let us also” implies that we are to follow the example of the faithful men and women in chapter 11. Who commended them as faithful examples? (see 11:2, 4-5, 39)

9. Give an example from chapter 11 of what someone laid aside.

10. Give an example from chapter 11 of someone who ran with endurance.

11. To ‘despise shame’ does not mean to pretend that there is no shame involved in an action; rather, it points to holding something else to be of such greater importance that the shame loses its power to dissuade. What shame might accompany death on a cross?

12. What did Jesus hold to be of greater importance than the avoidance of shame?

13. Throughout the Scriptures, what joys have been promised to those who run the race with endurance to the end? Support your answer with Scriptures.

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14. How should the promise of these joys encourage us to endure?

❖ Day 3

Read Hebrews 12:1-3 again.

15. Why did the heroes in chapter 11 lay aside the hopes of this world? (see 11:1, 10, 13-16, 26)

16. If we do not lay aside the things that hinder us or we are dissuaded by the shame that accompanies the cross of Christ, what does that say about what we consider of greatest importance?

17. What sorts of hostility did Jesus endure from sinners?

18. How should considering Jesus' endurance of hostility keep us from growing weary of fainthearted?

19. What do you need to lay aside?

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20. List some practical ways that we can encourage each other to obey these verses.

21. What impact did the author want this section to have on his readers?

22. What impact has it had on you?

In preparation for Sunday, pray for our youth and what they have learned this weekend during DNOW. Pray that they would all grow to be fruitful disciples and faithful church members and that God would call some of them out to serve vocationally in church ministry and cross-cultural missions. Pray that all of us would lay aside the weights and sins that hamper our running and that we would fix our eyes on Jesus as we faithfully run with endurance.