

## Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Therefore, 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, 2 looking 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.

### Community Group Study 28 Feb 2010

#### Introduction

The writer of Hebrews uses the race as an analogy of the Christian life. We are exhorted to run to win the prize, keeping our eyes on the goal, which is Jesus Christ.

We are told to put aside the things that hinder us, both the things that weigh us down (even though not sinful) as well as the sin that entangles us.

We turn from our sins and look to Christ, just as the Israelites looked upon the snake on a staff and were healed. We follow Jesus by the leading of the Spirit on this lifetime's race for the prize of relationship with our God.

#### Discussion

- >>How do we spot sin in our own lives?
- >>How is our life like a race?
- >>How do the people listed in Hebrews 11 encourage us in our race?

#### Explanation

- >>Why is God the reward of our running and not anything else?
- >>How do we guard against the sin that so easily entangles?
- >>Why are some things permissible but not profitable?

#### Application

- >>Share with the group some things in your life (thoughts, habits, activities, causes, ambitions) that are not sinful but which are not "profitable" to your relationship with God.
- >>In what ways can we "look to Jesus"?
- >>How do we live like foreigners in this world?