

**Be Reformed** – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is  
**Be Charismatic** – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

**Be Community** – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up  
**Be Missional** – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

## 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.

## Study Guide 28 October 2012 – Running the Race



### Summary

Hebrews 12:1-2 was written to encourage Christians who have been buffeted by trials to press on in the faith and run the race with endurance. There was much pressure on the Christians that the letter was written to, to embrace certain elements of Judaism to avoid persecution for being Christians. The writer urges these early Christians to consider the cloud of witnesses (mentioned in verse 1) who are testifying to God's faithfulness, and then to run with endurance the race marked out for them. The writer encourages them to lay aside 'every weight' - those things that would slow them down- as well as their 'sin' - those things that take us off course from our goal, which is Christ. The way we are empowered to run the race is to fix our eyes on Jesus who came and entered the race Himself to win it on our behalf (the founder of our faith), and who will also bring us home to Him in glory (the perfecter of our faith).

### Key points

1. Run with endurance by looking to Jesus

### Questions

>> What other races are you tempted to run? What is the ultimate prize in your life?

>> What are some of the 'weights' in your life that you need to discard?

>> How does the fact the Jesus is the founder of your faith change the way you view Christianity?

### Final thoughts

Because Jesus ran the race perfectly on our behalf we can run with endurance the race marked out for us.