

Staying Faithful for the Long Run

One Ordinary Day at a Time

[QR] WATCH BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Scan to watch the Lesson 13 teaching video, a 12-minute companion to this lesson.

BIG IDEA

Faithfulness isn't a sprint of willpower. It's a long walk, one ordinary day at a time, with your eyes fixed on Jesus.

CORE SCRIPTURES

"Let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

Hebrews 12:1-2 (CSB)

"I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:6 (CSB)

KEY CONCEPTS

Fill in the blanks as you read or as your group works through the lesson.

1. The question that decides a Christian life usually isn't whether you start with passion. It's whether you're still _____ with Jesus years from now.
2. Hebrews tells us to lay aside every _____, not just obvious sin, but any good thing that has turned heavy.
3. The Christian life is not a sprint you win with one burst. We run with _____.
4. You don't run by examining yourself. You run by keeping your _____ on Jesus.
5. You stay faithful not by your willpower, but because the One who began

this work will _____ it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Work through these as a group. There are no wrong answers here, only honest ones.

► OPENING · LOW STAKES

1. Have you noticed the early momentum of following Jesus starting to level off? What has that shift been like?

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2. Think of someone who has walked faithfully with God for decades. What have you noticed about how they last?

► CORE · HEART OF THE LESSON

3. What's one weight, not necessarily a sin, just a weight, that's been slowing you down lately? What would it look like to set it down?

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4. Where have you been waiting to feel more spiritual before you act, instead of just taking the next ordinary step? What's one small step available to you today?

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5. When you take spiritual inventory, do you tend to look mostly at yourself or mostly at Jesus? What might change if you kept your eyes on him?

► DEEPER · FOR COURAGEOUS GROUPS

6. Does your confidence for the long run rest more on your willpower or on God's faithfulness to finish what he started? What would it free you to do to trust the second one?

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7. As your first year comes to a close, what would it look like to keep your face set toward Jesus in the year ahead?

LOOKING TO JESUS

This whole lesson has asked you to keep walking, one ordinary day at a time, with your eyes on Jesus. It helps to see that Jesus walked a long, hard road himself, and he did not turn back. Luke marks the turning point in a single sentence: "When the days were coming to a close for him to be taken up, he determined to journey to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). The older wording is even more vivid: he set his face toward Jerusalem. He knew what waited there, and he went anyway. It was not one dramatic leap, but a journey, village after village and ordinary day after ordinary day, every step carrying him closer to the hardest thing he would ever do. He could have turned aside a hundred times. He never did, because of the joy on the far side of it, the joy of bringing you home. The Savior who set his face toward Jerusalem for you is more than able to keep you walking toward him until you finish too.

REFLECTION: *Jesus set his face toward the goal and kept walking, one ordinary day at a time. As your first year comes to a close, what would it look like to keep your face set toward him in the year ahead?*

JOURNALING

Set aside 15 to 20 minutes with these prompts. Write honestly. No one grades these.

1. Where has the early excitement of following Jesus leveled off into something more ordinary? Write honestly about what that has felt like, and what has kept you walking.
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2. Name one weight, not necessarily a sin, that has been slowing you down. What would it look like to set it down this week?
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3. Look back over this first year. Write down two or three things the Lord has done in you, then one ordinary step you'll take to keep walking in the year ahead.

Core Scriptures: Hebrews 12:1-2 • Philippians 1:6

THIS WEEK

Take one ordinary step, and then take it again tomorrow. Pick the next small act of obedience, prayer on a busy morning, opening the Bible when it doesn't sparkle, showing up to worship tired, and do it with your eyes on Jesus, not your scorecard.

Memory verse: Hebrews 12:1-2

[QR] WANT TO GO DEEPER?

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ANSWERS

Key Concepts fill-in-the-blank answers.

1. **walking**
2. **weight**
3. **endurance**
4. **eyes**
5. **finish**