



PURSUIT

Pursuit 2022 Part 4—Untangled **Pastor Tosha Zwanziger** **1.23.2022**

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Hebrews 12:1-3, NIV]

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Throw off the weights and stay in the race!

HOW TO RUN THE RACE WELL—

1. Deal with Offenses.

[Luke 17:1, NKJV]

He said “it is impossible that no offenses should come”

[John 16:33]

In this world you will have trouble.

[James 3:16, AMP]

¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder [unrest, rebellion] and every evil thing **and** morally degrading practice.

[Ephesians 4:27, AMP]

“...And do not give the devil a foothold (an opportunity to lead you into sin by holding a grudge, or nurturing anger, or harboring resentment, or cultivating bitterness!”

[Ephesians 4:31]

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

[Luke 6:28]

Bless **and** show kindness to those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

[Hebrews 12:15]

¹⁵ Watch over each other to make sure that no one misses the revelation of God’s grace. And make sure no one lives with a root of bitterness sprouting within them which will only cause trouble and poison the hearts of many.

2. Live Open with God.

3. Cast your Cares on God (Don't Worry).

[1 Peter 5:7, NASB]

“...Casting all your anxiety (cares) upon Him, because He cares for you.”

[Matthew 6:34, NIV]

“Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own”

[Philippians 4:6-7, NIV]

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”

4. Fix Your Eyes on Jesus.

[Hebrews 12:1-3]

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ **Consider him** who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

[Acts 3:19]

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

FOR MONDAY—

- 1.** Pray and ask God to reveal any offenses, big or small, that you might be carrying. Open your heart to healing in those areas.
- 2.** Create times and spaces where you can count on regular conversations with God.
- 3.** Find opportunities for kindness and blessing, even if you've experienced the opposite from those same individuals.

TALK IT THROUGH

- 1.** Where have you witnessed bitterness or negativity affect people for either short seasons or over the long haul? What was the result? If you saw a turnaround, how was that accomplished?
- 2.** What is the race that God has set and marked out for you personally? Who does that directly involve?
- 3.** If you were recently praying and fasting, what have you discovered about the race you're in during that time of pursuit?
- 4.** What are some things that entangle God's people from moving forward? What are some things you know or have discovered that entangles you? [Hebrews 12:1-3] How can we detect them early and keep them from taking root?
- 5.** What are some things that we don't even think about that weigh us down? What does the process of releasing those things look like?
- 6.** If you could envision the "great cloud of witnesses" cheering you on in your faith journey from heaven, who do you imagine seeing, and why?
- 7.** Why do some people get frustrated and discouraged with God while running their race? How do you get mature perspective as you go through the process of throwing off the weights that entangle?

- 8.** What does running hard after God include, and what does it look like in action?
- 9.** How does making a dedication and determination impact you running your race?
- 10.** How do you fix your eyes on Jesus? How does a lifestyle of ongoing repentance produce long-term growth?