

# HOPE

A Good Place to Find Life

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## Small Group Discussion Guide — August 31, 2025

- Series: The Long Game
  - Sermon: “Focus and Endure”
  - Scripture: 2 Timothy 2: 1-10 (NLT)
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### FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

How has thinking about *the long game* affected your faith walk this week? Has the Lord brought anyone to mind as you think about the “passing of the baton,” either as someone ahead of you, or someone behind you?

### CONNECT

1. What stood out for you from this week’s service, and why?
2. Share about a time when something was harder than you expected, but you kept going because the reward or outcome was worth it.

### ENGAGE

Read 2 Timothy 2: 1-10.

1. In verses 1-2, where does Paul say our strength comes from?
2. What task does Paul give Timothy in verse 2? How does this instruction apply to us today? What discretion is Paul urging here? Discuss why that’s important.
3. Read verses 3-10 again.
  - Terrain of the Race
    - A. What common theme(s) do you see in each example of soldier, athlete, and farmer?
    - B. Paul calls Timothy to “share in suffering as a good soldier.” How does that challenge our natural expectations of the Christian life?
    - C. How does viewing life as a *wartime reality* change the way we think about priorities, money, comfort, and mission?
    - D. Why would Paul use an athlete’s discipline and training as a picture of faith? What “training rules” or spiritual disciplines help keep you focused and growing?
    - E. What does the farmer’s hard, steady work teach us about following Christ? Where might you need more perseverance and patience in your spiritual walk?
    - F. Which image (soldier, athlete, farmer) resonates most right now? Why?
  - Race Destination / Prize
    - A. How does a soldier/athlete/farmer keep moving ahead in the work? What motivates them?
    - B. What is Paul’s motivation?

- C. Paul's ultimate encouragement in this passage can be summed up into one sentence: "Guard the gospel, whatever the cost, for the eternal glory of the generations." What finish line are you running towards? How true is it for you that you are motivated to "*endure everything*" so you can share the gospel of Christ? Discuss.

## **APPLY**

### Racing Tips

1. Know where your strength comes from (v. 1).
  - How do you personally respond to hardship—does it discourage you, or can it strengthen your faith?
  - Practically speaking, what does it look like to draw strength from the grace of Christ?
  - Where might God be calling you to embrace faithfulness, even if it means difficulty or discomfort?
2. Don't run alone (v. 2).
  - Who has invested in you, and who are you investing in?
  - What are some ways you can "multiply your ministry" this week?
3. Remember Jesus (v. 8). Why is this foundational and critical?

## **PRAYER**

Father, you have called us to run this race faithfully, carrying the gospel with us everywhere we go. You haven't promised smooth terrain, but you have promised to be with us and to give us your grace. Lord, we won't last long in this race if we depend upon our own strength or willpower. Keep us close to you, Lord, for we know that everything we need comes from you. Give us eyes to see the opportunities around us to share the wonderful news of your salvation. And keep our eyes fixed on you, Jesus, our Savior and Lord. In your name we pray, Amen.

## **GOING DEEPER**

Which "racing tip" (grace, not alone, remembering Jesus) do you most need right now? How can your group pray for you to run faithfully in this season of life?

## **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE**

2 Timothy 4: 6-8

2 Timothy 1: 14

## **QUOTES**