
Small Group Discussion Guide — SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

- Series: The Long Game
 - Sermon: Run With Vision
 - Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:5-8
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

As you reflected on last week's sermon, were you challenged or did you become more aware of any distractions or misplaced loves that may have pulled -or are pulling -your focus away from God?

CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. Share about a time you thought you were getting ahead (like picking the "shorter" checkout line) but it turned out you weren't. What made the situation funny or frustrating?

ENGAGE

1. In verse 5, Paul gives Timothy four clear instructions; stay clear minded, don't fear suffering, share the Good News, and finish the ministry. Which of these feels most challenging for you right now? Why?
2. Paul describes his life as being "poured out as an offering" (v.6) What does that image teach us about how followers of Jesus should view their life and service?
3. In verse 7, Paul measures success by faithfulness rather than winning. How does this shift our perspective on what it means to "finish well"?

APPLY

1. Where are you most tempted to make something other than Jesus your "finish line" (success, recognition, comfort, control etc.)?
2. Paul reminds us that the crown is not recognition but relationship with Jesus (v.8) How does this truth change the way we view success? How do you recognize when your motivation is leaning toward external/material (not lasting) rewards rather than internal/ eternal ones?
3. Paul was able to continue his race and remain joyful even while sitting in a dark prison awaiting execution. Where do you think that kind of joy and perseverance come from? Since trials are not optional, how do you stay faithful instead of discouraged; Keeping your eyes on Jesus and the mission?

PRAYER

Lord, we confess that our hearts are so easily distracted by the things around us. Thank you that You are patient and always ready to guide us back to focus. Help us to fix our eyes on You, knowing You are the one who gives us strength and direction. May we run this race set before us with endurance and courage. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 15:5

John 13:34-35

Philippians 2:17

Numbers 15

GOING DEEPER

What stands out to you when comparing Paul's statement "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful." (V7) with its opposite, I have given up the fight, I have abandoned the race, I have lost my faith? What does this contrast reveal about the importance or perseverance in our walk with Christ?

QUOTES

"By faith, walk in His light, enjoy His presence, love His love, and rejoice that you are never alone; He is with you, always to bless." Bill Bright