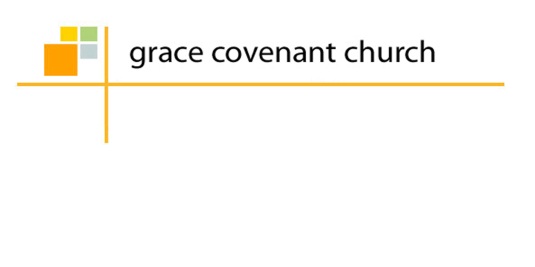
Running the Race



***, 2005***

For most of the semester we have been talking about Jephthah, Gideon, Barak, and Samson, who were men God used to turn his people, the Israelites, away from their sinful ways back to Him. One of the astounding points is that these men were far from perfect, as we learned, they doubted and tested God, stumbled to their worldly lusts, and even lead people in worshipping idols, but God redeemed them. He took their failures and made them His victories. We have touched on how these men, though imperfect, were written in the Hall of Faith (Hebrews 11). In this Bible Study we will see how we too can be empowered to walk in faith in the ways these men were. Hebrews 12 shows us how to run the race well.

Discussion question: Have you ever started something new only to give it up a few weeks late? Share with your group.

Read Hebrews 12:1-2

1. This scripture likens the Christian walk to a race. In what ways might this be so? What kind of race are we running?
2. According to this passage, what are some things that hinder the runners from running the race? What are some characteristics of God’s people as they run the race? How can these characteristics help us not be hindered? (Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4, 2 Timothy 4:7-8)
3. What does the “cloud of witnesses” this passage refers to? Who can be considered these types of witnesses in our lives? How might they be used in our own race?
4. In verse 2, how might looking to Jesus’ suffering help us have focus in our own walk? What do we see in the passage to clue us in?
5. What are some practical ways you can finish the race well this year and begin next semester setting yourself to finish stronger?