Run To Win – 1/17/2021

OVERVIEW

When we follow Jesus, we are automatically part of a spiritual race. However, it doesn't take long into the race to realize there are challenges and obstacles along the way. At times, some of these obstacles may make us question whether it's worth it to keep going. We may feel like giving up, but we must keep pushing!! What type of mindset is required to finish this race? How can God's discipline play a crucial role in that process?

Scriptures (NIV): 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Hebrews 12:5-11

APPLICATION

• What is one of the hardest races you have run in your life ("race" doesn't have to be an actual physical race)? What did it teach you about yourself?

• Describe a time in your journey with Jesus where you became weary, worn out and felt like giving up. How did you respond and what did you learn from that process?

• It's hard to imagine that discipline from God is a good thing and can be the very thing we need to keep pushing us forward in this race and toward becoming the person God wants us to be. What response do you normally have when faced with this discipline and why?

1. Do you shake your fist at God in anger?
2. Do you ignore it and separate yourself from God?
3. Do you see it from a life-changing perspective?

• Read Hebrews 12:10-11. We can choose one of two perspectives based on our view of God's character as we respond to the loving discipline of our heavenly Father. We can submit to it <u>or</u> run from it. How is God calling you to submissively respond in obedience?

NEXT STEP: Spend some time with someone this week and share with each other something that you would never want to go through again, but how it made you into who you are today. Then describe something in your life right now in which the process is painful, and prayerfully ask these questions together: 1. What does God want me to learn from this process? 2. How can I become the person God is calling me to be through it? Pray together for God's strength to embrace it and keep moving forward!