

FIXING YOUR EYES

Seeing Jesus for Who He Is

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.
- Jesus (Matthew 6:22)

Faith is the habit of seeing what God sees, but most of us suffer from vision deficiency. In the final chapters of the book of Hebrews, the author urges believers to fix our eyes on Jesus. By seeing Jesus for who he really is - the image of perfection and the pioneer of our faith - we will be able to see ourselves for who we are: imperfect sinners saved by grace through faith. Join us at The Story, Sundays in November, as we fix our eyes to see God's vision for our lives!

November 16, 2025 - Part 3 - Run Your Race (Hebrews 12)

At various points throughout the New Testament, the Christian life is described as a “race” (*1 Cor. 9:24-27, 2 Timothy 4:7, Galatians 5:7, Philippians 3:12-14*). **Have you ever run a race? If so, how did you prepare? What challenges did you face along the way?**

What does a lifetime of following Jesus have in common with running a race?

Hebrews 12:1-3 - 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, 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. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

THE RACE IS _____. BE _____!

Who should Christians focus on as we run our race, and what about him, specifically, should we fix our eyes on?

How does focusing on him empower us to run the long race of faith?

Hebrews 12:4-11 - In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

THE RACE IS _____. BE _____!

How does the writer of Hebrews say that Christians should interpret hardships and trials?

Have you ever experienced the *discipline* of God? If so, what did that experience teach you? How did it change your outlook?

Why is it important to remember that the Lord disciplines those He *loves*?

An important caveat: Is every bad thing that happens to people an example of God's discipline? How can we discern whether a particular trial or tragedy is God's discipline or not?

Hebrews 12:12-17, 28-29 - Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done... Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

THE RACE IS _____. BE _____!

What particular dangers does the writer of Hebrews warn Christians to avoid while running the race?

How can followers of Jesus avoid or overcome the perils and pitfalls along our path?

On a practical level, how do you strive for holiness in your everyday life?

Your Notes:



FREE Tickets for Children's Christmas Choir

Tickets for our annual Children's Christmas Choir show on Sunday, December 14 at 5:30pm are now available! Visit **thestory.church/christmas** to learn more and grab free tickets for your whole family.



Help Decorate The Story for Christmas!

Save the date to join us on Sunday, November 23 after services as we decorate our church home for the Christmas season! Register on **thestory.church/events** to let us know you're planning to attend. All ages are welcome to serve & childcare is available for 5 and under!



Donation Drive for Main Street Ministries

Due to current delays in SNAP benefits, our partner Main Street Ministries is collecting nonperishable food items, HEB gift cards, and personal care items. Items can be dropped off at their facility (5100 Travis St) between 8am to 4pm, Monday - Friday.