

IN IT TO WIN IT  
Hebrews 12:1-13

Endurance is not just the ability to bear a hard thing, but to turn it into glory.

William Barclay

## It's about how you run ... (12:1-3)

Our forerunners witnessed what it means to live a life of faith.

It's not about how they look at us, it's about how we look at them

Jesus endured the cross by looking beyond

Constant hardship can wear us down and wear us out

## It's not is you'll face hardship; it's how you'll see it (12:4-13)

Hardships of all sorts should be seen as

- God's training program
- God's mentoring program
- God's focusing program

## What we do about it (12:12-13)

Doing our part – Enduring doesn't mean we sit around waiting for God to do something; we are proactive

Hardship tends to paralyze; we need to strengthen limp hands and knees

Hardship tends to clutter our minds; we need to declutter in order to look toward the goal.

- Live in the future; not in the crisis
- Focus on the prize; not on the hardship
- Live in community; not in isolation

## Small Group Homework - Week of May 1, 2016

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On Sunday we talked about hardships. When you think of hardship, what's the first thing that pops into your mind?

Any ideas as to why that particular situation came to mind?

### Digging Deeper

1. Read Romans 8:35 and jot down the words that go along with hardship. Some of them are pretty similar but see if you can jot down a phrase to define each term.

Which one of those stands out to you as particularly menacing? Why?

2. Read through 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. Paul gives a series of "this, but not that" statements. What's the point of those statements?

Describe a time when you have felt like Paul and his coworkers. What was your response?

3. Compare 2 Cor 4:16 with Hebrews 12:3. How does Paul's thinking in 2 Cor 4:10-11 fit in with Hebrews 12:2-3?

Can you think of some practical ways that you can fix your eyes on Jesus so that hardships might be easier to bear? [Work hard on this – be real]

4. Think of someone who is going through hardship right now. Read Galatians 6:2-3. Can you think of a couple of ways you might help them through this crisis?

Now move beyond just helping them out. How can you help them see some of the spiritual principles we talked about in the study?