

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## COMMUNION

These questions are for the **January 1, 2017** sermon, "The Race Set Before Us." Please read the sermon passage (Hebrews 12:1-2) together out loud.

NOTE . . .

1. **The dedication involved in running this race. (1)**
  - A. Consider key examples in the 'Hall of Faith' (Hebrews 11).
    - i. Abel brought his sacrifice in faith (11:4).
    - ii. Abraham believed that God would send the Messiah (11:8).
    - iii. Moses believed God (11:23).
      1. They looked forward to Jesus.
      2. We look back to Jesus.
  - B. Lay aside anything that weighs you down, including sin.
    - i. God has marked out a course for us that requires . . .
      1. PREPARATION (1a)
      2. PERSEVERENCE (1b)
    - ii. What is it that weighs you down? How can you lay aside that weight in 2017?
2. **Three distinctives about Jesus. (2)**
  - A. He endured the cross.                      He completed what the Father marked out for him.
  - B. He despised the shame of the cross.      He scorned the scorn, not the scorners.
  - C. He is seated at the right hand of God.    His race is forever and perfectly complete.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: You are surrounded by a great cast of faithful saints who went before you faithfully. How do these faithful saints who looked forward to Jesus motivate you as you look back with to Jesus in faith? Who is your "favorite" from Hebrews 11? Why?
2. Based on #1, above: All weights which slow us down are not necessarily sin. Misplaced priorities and relational distance may be examples of "weights" that are not sins. Which weights and sins will you lay aside in 2017 in order to focus on Christ Jesus and run your race better? How can we help you? How can we pray for you?
3. Based on #1, above: God marks our races. The word for "race" in Greek provides our English word, "agony." God has probably marked out a course for which is gut-wrenching and difficult. Yet we must run it faithfully. In what way is your race producing agony? How does looking to Jesus' "agony" and perfect obedience spur you on? How can we help?
4. Based on #2, above: When Jesus was faced with friends who left him and enemies who scorned him, his reaction was to pray for their forgiveness and commit his spirit into the hands of his Father. In what ways do your reaction to agony follow Jesus' example? In what way do you need to become more like Jesus in your reaction to agony?