



1. **How the race is won: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

Am I playing to win, or playing not to _____?

Playing to win takes:

1. _____
2. Discipline
3. Sacrifice
4. Overcoming _____

2. **How the race is _____: 1 Corinthians 10:1-11**

1. Assume that "blessings" equal God's _____.
2. Focus on your desires, not God's.
3. Pursue the temporary, not the _____.

Exodus 15 & 16

Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts. **2 Timothy 2:22**

3. **Two rules of the race: 1 Corinthians 10:12-13**

1. The way out of temptation is always _____.
2. The way back into the race is always obedience.

4. **Questions to take home: Matthew 7:21-27**

1. Am I a wise or foolish builder?
2. Am I foolishly _____ with just a good start?
3. How am I being strategic about running the race?

Proverbs 13:20 says, "Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm."

"The best time to plant a tree is 25 years ago... the second best time to plant a tree is _____."

Connection Group Questions

Further Study on the Sermon from June 12, 2022

1. If someone could silently observe you 24 hours a day for 7 days how do you think they would describe the focus of your life? What would they say you desire or pursue most?

Have you ever felt like your focus or pursuit in life and God's plan seemed to be heading in different directions? How did you become aware of this?

2. God has promised us a way of escape when we are faced with temptation, and it will always start with obedience. Can you think of any situations where people feel like they are trapped and there is no way to escape?
3. This weekend Pastor Lucas dug into **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** and helped us see how Paul's description of training for a race relates to our own lives. Read a few more of Paul's racing analogies and find as many of his "training tips" as you can. Read: **Philippians 3:13-14, 2 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 12:1-3**
How can our past successes and failures either help us run or slow us down?

4. Competitive athletes are strategic about their racing; they "play to win" instead of "playing not to lose." Jesus told a story about some guys who illustrated both of these strategies. Read **Matthew 25:14-30** and imagine what each servant must have been thinking. What words would you use to describe someone who is "playing to win" compared to another who is "playing not to lose"? Read: **Matthew 25:14-30**

God has also given each one of us specific "talents" (gifts, abilities, or resources). What are some of the "talents" you believe God has given you, and how do you think you could invest or grow them?

Are there any "talents" you need to be careful not to bury?

5. Am I foolishly content with just a good start? (What do I need to focus on to finish well?)

How am I being strategic about running the race?