



Journey Group Lesson for “Enduring The Tough Times Is Worth It” – May 9, 2010

Getting Started (Everyone Answer)

Share the best and worst moments you experienced this past week.

If you were to describe your Christian walk in terms of a NASCAR race, what words would you use? Are you 1) “gassed up” and ready to go; 2) in need of a pit stop; or 3) ready to win the race? Explain your answer.

Digging Deeper

Read [2 Timothy 2:3-7](#). What three characters does Paul use to describe the Christian walk? Why do you think he describes the Christian walk in these ways? Which character do you most identify with – soldier, athlete, or farmer? Why?

Roman soldiers were signed-on for a 20 year term and were forbidden to marry during their time of service. What does this say about the dedication God requires from believers? What do you think it means to “endure hardship as a soldier”?

Do you tend to grow in the spiritual life more during the good times or during times of suffering? What is it about suffering that helps us follow God better?

What other athletic metaphors does Paul use to describe the Christian life (see Gal. 2:2; 1 Cor. 9:26; Eph. 6:12; 1 Cor. 4:9; and Phil. 3:13-14)? In what ways is the Christian life like athletics? What are the benefits of pain in athletics? How does pain help athletes improve?

What can we learn about the Christian life from the farmer? In what ways is the Christian life like farming?

In what ways would enduring hardship help bring other people to Jesus? Can you think of an example? How does this encourage you?

What are the fruits that come from the endurance of the soldier (vs. 4), the athlete (vs. 5), and the farmer (6)? What is offered to those who stay faithful in the Christian walk?

Bringing It Home

Read [2 Timothy 2:8-13](#). In 2:13, the word “faithless” does not mean a complete lack of faith but a wavering faith, like when Peter denied Christ. Have you ever experienced a wavering faith? What is God’s promise to us when our faith wavers?

Homework - “Digging Deeper” worksheet.

Prayer time – Spend time praying as a group for God’s faithfulness to you even through tough times.