

Hebrews 12:1

Purpose:

We will review Hebrews chapter 11 and look at the beginning of chapter 12 to see how the examples from chapter 11 lead us to see the author and finisher of our faith—Jesus.

Activity 1:

“Cloud of Witnesses”

Materials:

Large piece of butcher paper or poster board  
Small pieces of paper or cardstock

1. Using butcher paper or poster board, cut out a large cloud and fasten it to the wall.
2. Have each student recall one example of faith from chapter 11 and draw that on the small piece of paper or cardstock. I pre-cut each of these to be a cloud shape as well.



Reread Hebrews 11:39-40 showing that they gained approval through their faith but did not receive what was promised.

“And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.” (Hebrews 11:39-40 NAS95)

Read Hebrews 12:1 and have each person place the example he has drawn onto the cloud.

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,” (Hebrews 12:1 NAS95)

Discuss “laying aside”. Give examples of laying aside something that is not helpful when you are trying to accomplish a task. (ex. laying down a toy so that you can climb a tree, taking off a backpack so that you can run faster, etc.) Let them give examples as they think of things that would fit.

Discuss “sin” and read the definition from Mounce so that they see it includes the “cause of sin” not simply particular actions.

*Greek 281: error; offence, sin, principle or cause of sin, proneness to sin, sinful propensity. (Mounce Greek Dictionary) (Strong’s # is 266)*

Activity 2:

Tie their feet together with bandanas and have them try to “run” a race. When they “fall” that is sinning, but the bandanas are what make them fall. So, lay aside the bandanas and run freely.

Look up that word “run” in Strong’s Concordance and Mounce’s Dictionary (I used the one in the Accordance app for Ipad and Ipad.) In the definition it includes “strong exertion” and “freedom” as elements in the definition. When we lay aside the hindrances and proneness to sin, we can now run freely.

Now, if you do not know where the race is, it is difficult to make it to the finish line. This race is “set before us”. It is set before our eyes. We can see the goal.

Read Hebrews 12:2

“fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2 NAS95)

The goal of our race is Jesus Himself. He is our faith perfected. The witnesses from chapter 11 were accepted by faith, but they did not to see the object of their faith.

Now, we can see Jesus. We can run the race set before us—setting aside the proneness to sin and running with full effort with our eyes on the goal—with our eyes on Him.

### Activity 3:

#### “Eyes following Jesus craft”

Materials needed for each student:

- 1 round piece of cardstock—either precut or traced so that the students can cut it out.
- 2 magnets
- 1 sticker that says “Jesus”
- 1 large craft stick (I just used half of the stick)
- 1 googly eye (optional)
- fast-drying glue

We did two different versions of this craft. One was done using a round magnet as the pupil of the eye. The other was done with a googly eye stuck on a piece of adhesive magnet tape.

1. Cut out a circle that is 1 ½” – 2” in diameter.
2. Glue a magnet on one end of a craft stick and place the Jesus sticker at the other end of the craft stick. (I used super glue and did this ahead of time due to the age of some of my students, but any fast-drying glue should work.)
3. Lay the magnet (or googly eye stuck to the magnet) on top of the circle and put the magnet end of the craft stick on the bottom of the circle so that the magnets stick together.
4. Move the Jesus sticker around the outside of the “eye” so that the pupil follows Jesus giving the appearance of keeping your eye on the goal...on Jesus Christ!





In retrospect, we could have glued two magnets on the craft stick and placed two googly eyes on the cardstock to make a face instead of an eyeball.

Song:

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” by Helen Lemmel

Optional video:

“Runner” by Twila Paris (There is a video on Youtube that we watched.)