



Bible Camp Bible Study

August 9-12, 2021

Ready, Set, Gold!

About every two years, we get ready for either summer or winter Olympic games, wondering who the best in the world are. These athletes train day in and day out for years with the dream of winning a gold medal for themselves and their country. Only a few people ever win the gold.

God has given us a purpose here on earth. He wants us to train with his Word, partner us with teammates, and teach us to trust him all for our benefit.

By the end of this week, I hope and pray that you will be shouting your gold medal win: "God gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (1 **Corinthians 15:57**)

Table of Contents

Day 1, Lesson 1:	Training Part 1 (p. 3)
Day 1, Lesson 2:	Training Part 2 (p. 9)
Day 2, Lesson 3:	Teammates Part 1 (p. 12)
Day 2, Lesson 4:	Teammates Part 2 (p. 15)
Day 3, Lesson 5:	Trust Part 1 (p. 17)
Day 3, Lesson 6:	Trust Part 2 (p. 21)
Day 4, Lesson 7:	Triumph Part 1 (p. 23)
Day 4, Lesson 8:	Triumph Part 2 (p. 25)



KIDS' BIBLE CAMP

Day 1: Training Part 1

The summer Olympics just wrapped up yesterday. How old do you think you have to be in order to compete in the Olympics? How much training do you have to do?

After watching that video of how Olympic athletes train, do you think you could do all that training?

Moses' Training

God had made a promise to a certain man named Abraham and his family hundreds of years earlier. He told them that all people all over the world would be blessed through them. To be blessed means that all people would have something really good happen to them because of a specific person who would be born from this family. The people from this family were called the Israelites or Hebrews. But when this family started living in Egypt because there was no food in the land they were in, they ended up being made slaves to the Egyptian people. They had to do what they were told and couldn't leave the country.



Even as slaves, though, the Egyptian people thought that there were too many Israelites. So, the Pharaoh (a title that means "king") decided that every Israelite baby boy should be thrown into the Nile River and drowned. How would you feel if you were one of those Israelites and your Mom had just had a baby brother?



One Israelite Mom and Dad weren't going to let Pharaoh kill their baby. So, they got a basket and coated it with tar and pitch so that no water would get in. They put their baby in the basket and sent their older daughter to watch it and make sure that the baby was safe. Pharaoh's daughter saw the basket and had someone go and get it. She found the baby and named him Moses. She decided to care for him and raise him in the royal palace with Moses' mother being paid to take care of her son.

God used Pharaoh's daughter to rescue Moses and provide him with training by raising him. If you grew up in a royal palace, what kind of training do you think you would get? What kind of school and teachers do you think you would have had?

What things do you think Moses learned from his Mom?



Even though Moses was raised with the royal family of Egypt for 40 years, he knew that he was an Israelite. He knew that the Israelites were being badly treated as slaves by the Egyptians. From his Mom, Moses would have known that God had promised to rescue them from their slavery and take them to live in Israel. Trying to help his people, Moses killed an Egyptian slave driver who was hurting an Israelite slave. Was this a good thing that Moses had done or a bad thing? How do you know that it was a good thing or a bad thing?

Moses ran away to a place called Midian and met a man there named Jethro. Moses married Jethro's daughter, Zipporah, and became a shepherd. He lived there with his new family for 40 more years.



Moses is now 80 years old and probably ready to retire from work. Then he sees a really strange sight: a burning bush that doesn't burn up! It's the Lord, the God of everything, who tells him to go back to Egypt and rescue his people from slavery. God gives Moses all the instruction he needs to free his people from Egypt. God does amazing things to get them out of Egypt.



Once they are free, God brings them to a mountain, the same mountain where Moses had seen that burning bush that didn't burn up. God invites them to be his special people out of all the nations if they fully obey his commandments. In a way, we could say that God was setting down rules to train them, rules to live by. Let's read **Exodus 20:1-17** from the Bible. These words are also known as the Ten Commandments. What are they?

Rule #1 (Verse 3)

Rule #2 (Verse 7)

Rule #3 (Verse 8)

Rule #4 (Verse 12)

Rule #5 (Verse 13)

Rule #6 (Verse 14)

Rule #7 (Verse 15)

Rule #8 (Verse 16)

Rule #9 (Verse 17)

Rule #10 (Verse 17)



Now let's read **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** from the Bible. What does God tell us to do with his rules?

How might we do the same with God's rules?

What will happen if you read the Bible a lot, talk about it every day with your family, write down parts of it in places where you can see?

Sometimes athletes talk about taking a "cheat" day. Have you ever heard that term before? What do you think it means for an athlete?

What excuses might we have for not training with God's Word? For not reading it, hearing it, or learning it?

What does God expect of us when it comes to his rules?

Deuteronomy 18:13 (NIRV) You must be without blame in the sight of the Lord your God.

Matthew 5:48 (NIRV) So be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

If this is what God expects us to do with his rules, what will happen if we have a "cheat" day when following God's training rules?

James 2:10 (NIV) For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

It seems so impossible to train according to God's rules! How can we keep all these rules?

Jeremiah 31:31–34 (NIRV) "The days are coming," announces the Lord. "I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel. I will also make it with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their people of long ago. That was when I took them by the hand. I led them out of Egypt. But they broke my covenant. They did it even though I was like a husband to them," announces the Lord. "This is the covenant I will make with Israel after that time," announces the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds. I will write it on their hearts. I will be their God. And they will be my people. They will not need to teach their neighbor anymore. And they will not need to teach one another anymore. They will not need to say, 'Know the Lord.' That's because everyone will know me. From the least important of them to the most important, all of them will know me," announces the Lord. "I will forgive their evil ways. I will not remember their sins anymore."

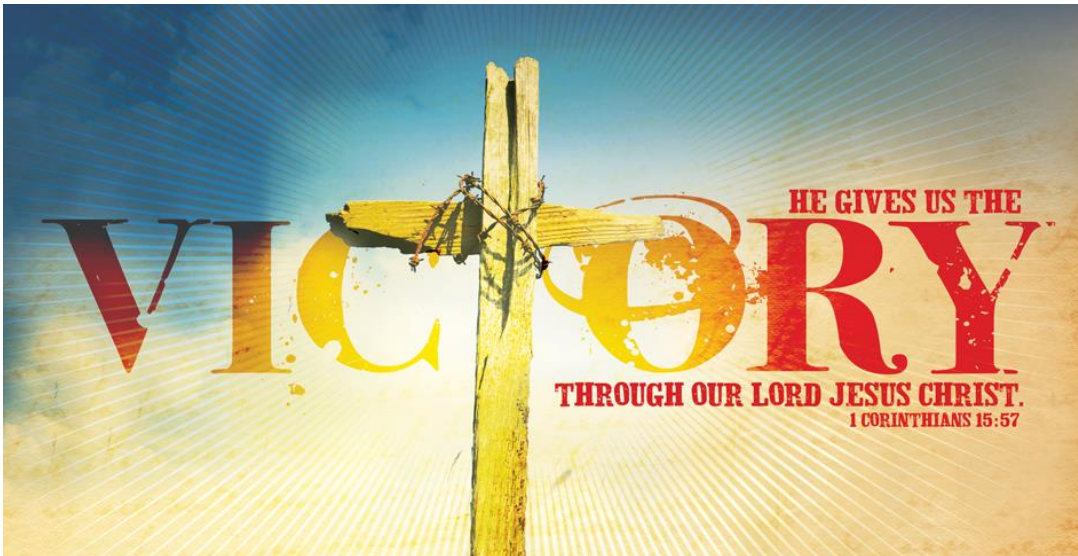
John 3:16–17 (NIRV) God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him.

Matthew 5:17–19 (NIRV) "Do not think I have come to get rid of what is written in the Law or in the Prophets. I have not come to do this. Instead, I have come to fulfill what is written. What I'm about to tell you is true. Heaven and earth will disappear before the smallest letter disappears from the Law. Not even the smallest mark of a pen will disappear from the Law until everything is completed. Do not ignore even one of the least important commands. And do not teach others to ignore them. If you do, you will be called the least important person in the kingdom of heaven. Instead, practice and teach these commands. Then you will be called important in the kingdom of heaven.

1 John 3:4–5 (NIRV) Everyone who sins breaks the law. In fact, breaking the law is sin. But you know that Christ came to take our sins away. And there is no sin in him.

1 Peter 2:22–25 (NIRV) Scripture says, “He didn’t commit any sin. No lies ever came out of his mouth.” People shouted at him and made fun of him. But he didn’t do the same thing back to them. When he suffered, he didn’t say he would make them suffer. Instead, he trusted in the God who judges fairly. “He himself carried our sins” in his body on the cross. He did it so that we would die as far as sins are concerned. Then we would lead godly lives. “His wounds have healed you.” “You were like sheep wandering away.” But now you have returned to the Shepherd. He is the one who watches over your souls.

Hebrews 10:14 (NIRV) By that one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

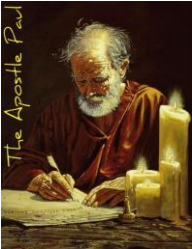




KIDS' BIBLE CAMP

Day 1: Training Part 2

For this year's Olympics, over 11,000 athletes competed in 339 events. These athletes have spent countless hours and years training to win victory and the gold medal. Yet, most of them went back to their homeland without winning a gold medal or any medal at all. How would you feel if you spent your whole life training to win a sport's event only to lose when the time came to compete?



There is another person in the Bible who trained very hard his whole life to be who God wanted him to be, kind of like an Olympic athlete training to win the victory and the gold medal. His name is Paul. Let's read **Philippians 3:4-6** from the Bible. Paul lists things that make him feel confident that he is going to win a gold medal from God. What are they?

Now let's read **Philippians 3:7-14** in the Bible. What did Paul call all these things that he had once given him confidence that he would win a gold medal from God? (**Verse 7, 8**)

What did Paul say was the only thing worth knowing? (**Verse 8**)

How would Paul win the gold medal from God if it wasn't going to come from his training or his effort? (**Verses 8-9**)

When would Paul finally get the prize that Jesus won for him? (**Verse 10**)

Until the day Paul received his prize for the victory Jesus won for him, what did Paul say that he would do? (**Verses 12-13**)

You have the same victory from Jesus that Paul has! Let's see how we have that same victory with what God tells us in the Bible.

Ephesians 2:1–10 (NIRV) You were living in your sins and lawless ways. But in fact you were dead. You used to live as sinners when you followed the ways of this world. You served the one who rules over the spiritual forces of evil. He is the spirit who is now at work in those who don't obey God. At one time we all lived among them. Our desires were controlled by sin. We tried to satisfy what they wanted us to do. We followed our desires and thoughts. God was angry with us like he was with everyone else. That's because of the kind of people we all were. But God loves us deeply. He is full of mercy. So he gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God's grace has saved you. God raised us up with Christ. He has seated us with him in his heavenly kingdom. That's because we belong to Christ Jesus. He has done it to show the riches of his grace for all time to come. His grace can't be compared with anything else. He has shown it by being kind to us. He was kind to us because of what Christ Jesus has done. God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it. We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do.

Galatians 3:26–27 (NIRV) So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God by believing in Christ. This is because all of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. You have put him on as if he were your clothes.

Romans 8:29–39 (NIRV) God planned that those he had chosen would become like his Son. In that way, Christ will be the first and most honored among many brothers and sisters. And those God has planned for, he has also appointed to be saved. Those he has appointed, he has made right with himself. To those he has made right with himself, he has given his glory. What should we say then? Since God is on our side, who can be against us? God did not spare his own Son. He gave him up for us all. Then won't he also freely give us everything else? Who can bring any charge against God's chosen ones? God makes us right with himself. Then who can sentence us to death? No one. Christ Jesus is at the right hand of God and is also praying for us. He died. More than that, he was raised to life. Who can separate us from Christ's love? Can trouble or hard times or harm or hunger? Can nakedness or danger or war? It is written, "Because of you, we face death all day long. We are considered as sheep to be killed." No! In all these things we are more than winners! We owe it all to Christ, who has loved us. I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can separate us. Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can separate us. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.

We have that victory from Jesus just like Paul, and so we also press on until the day God takes us to heaven. That means, in a way, we are still training even though we already have the victory from Jesus.





KIDS' BIBLE CAMP

Day 2: Teammates Part 1

In the Olympics, there are events where Olympians compete as individuals or as a team. What are some Olympic sports that require teammates?

After watching the video about Olympic rowing, how does the coxswain teammate help the entire rowing team? Why do you think that a rowing team of 8 could not win without a coxswain?

Even if you compete in a solo event as an Olympian, what are some ways that other people support you and help you compete?



Let's read **Exodus 4:13-16** from the Bible. Yesterday, we heard that God trained Moses to rescue his people. Before Moses did that, what did he ask God to do? (**Verse 13**)

How did God answer Moses' request? (**Verses 14, 16**) How would that help Moses? (**Verse 15**)



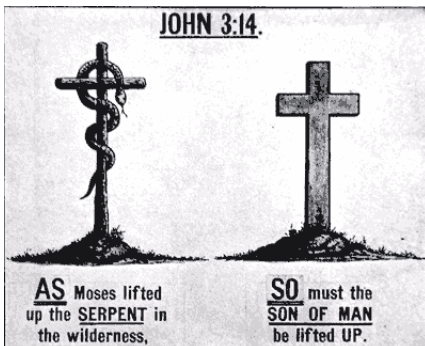
Now let's read **Numbers 21:4-9** from the Bible. This takes place after almost 40 years of training in the desert for God's people, the Israelites. What did they complain about? (**Verse 5**) Was it a good thing or a bad thing to complain about these things?

After God sent venomous snakes among the Israelites and many of them died, what did they realize? (**Verse 7**)

How did God respond to the Israelites' request? (**Verse 8**)

What happened when people looked at the snake on the pole? (**Verse 9**)

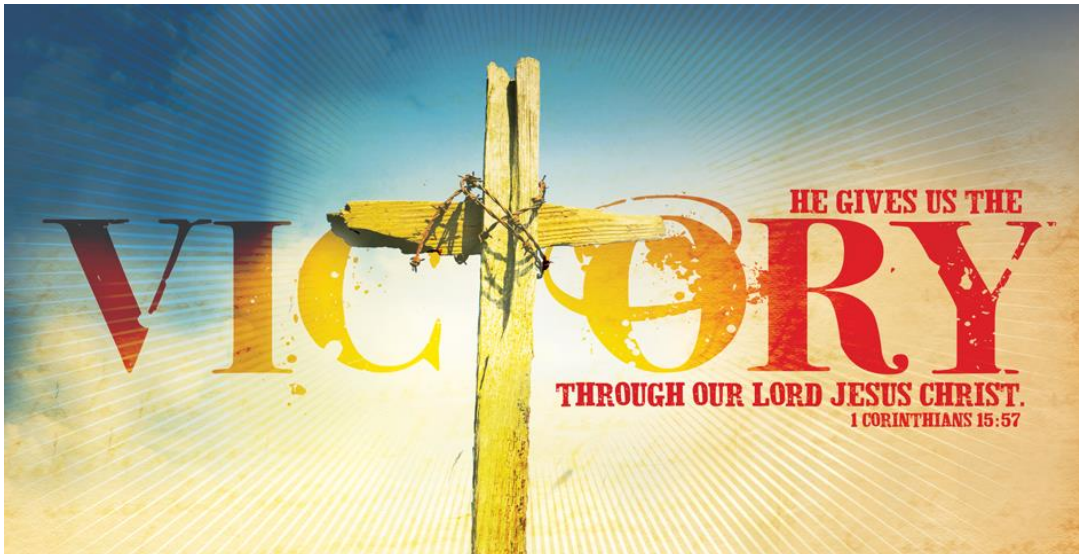
In a way, the snake was a substitute teammate. What's a substitute? How might you use a substitute in the Olympics?



1400 years later during Jesus' life, he told us, "Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. In the same way, the Son of Man must also be lifted up. Then everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." (**John 3:14-16**) Jesus is the Son of Man. Him being lifted up pointed ahead to when he would be lifted up on a cross to die. What happens when people believe that Jesus died for them?

Jesus recruited what we might call teammates. He called 12 people to follow him, be trained by him, learn from him, and then to go out and tell other people about him. We know that Jesus is God and can do all things. We know that Jesus substituted his life for ours to take away our sins, all our bad things, and to instead fill us with all the good and perfect things he did. Do you think that Jesus needed teammates in order to do this? Why not?

Jesus is like an all-star player who could win a whole game like basketball or soccer or football or a relay race all by himself because he's God. So, why would Jesus pick teammates?





KIDS' BIBLE CAMP

Day 2: Teammates Part 2

God gave teammates to Moses to help him take care of God's people. God also gave teammates to another believer who we learned about yesterday: Paul. His teammates included Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, Luke, John Mark, Apollos, Priscilla, Aquila, and many others. (You can read **Romans 16** in the Bible to see more of the teammates Paul had in taking care of God's people.)

Let's read **1 Corinthians 12:1-27** from the Bible. Paul wrote this letter to Christians living in a city called Corinth. In verse 4, he told them that they had different gifts from God. Even though they had different gifts among them, what was the same thing that they all had?

Look at **verses 8-10**. What are some of the different gifts that Christians have from God?

What are Christians supposed to use these gifts for? (**verse 7**)

God planned us to be different and to have different gifts. Even though we are different, what does God say we are like? (**verse 12**)

Let's read the following parts of the Bible together. As we do that, let's give a reason why Christians need other Christians on their team.

Galatians 6:2 (NIRV) Carry one another's heavy loads. If you do, you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Proverbs 27:17 (NIRV) As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NIRV) Let us consider how we can stir up one another to love. Let us help one another to do good works. And let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us encourage one another with words of hope. Let us do this even more as you see Christ's return approaching.

You are gathering Christian teammates here at Bible Camp. What are some ways that you can stay teammates after this week?





KIDS' BIBLE CAMP

Day 3: Trust Part 1



What is trust?

How do you know when you trust someone?

In whom or in what do Olympic athletes have to trust?



Let's read **Exodus 17:8-16** in the Bible. God's people, the Israelites, had only been rescued out of Egypt a little over 2 months. This was their first battle since leaving. What was the battle plan? (**Verse 9**)

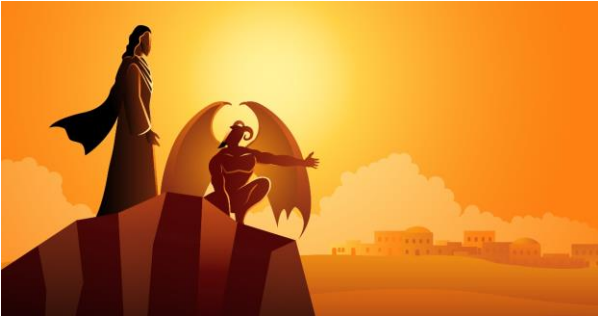
What happened when Moses' held up the staff of God over the battle? (**Verse 11**) What happened when he lowered his hands? (**Verse 11**)

If someone told you to go into battle and just have your general hold up his hands on a nearby hill and you would win, what would you think would happen?

Why do you think Moses trusted God's battle plan?

Do we always trust God?

What are some times when we don't trust God?



Let's read **Luke 4:1-13** in the Bible. The devil is a powerful being who wants all people to suffer forever. He came to Jesus, the Son of God, and tried to get him to do something wrong, to sin. We call trying to get someone to do something wrong temptation. What was the first thing the devil tempted Jesus to do? (**Verse 3**)

How did Jesus answer the devil? (**Verse 4**) Where did he get his answer from? (**Hint: Look at the little letter leading you to the footnote on verse 4.**)

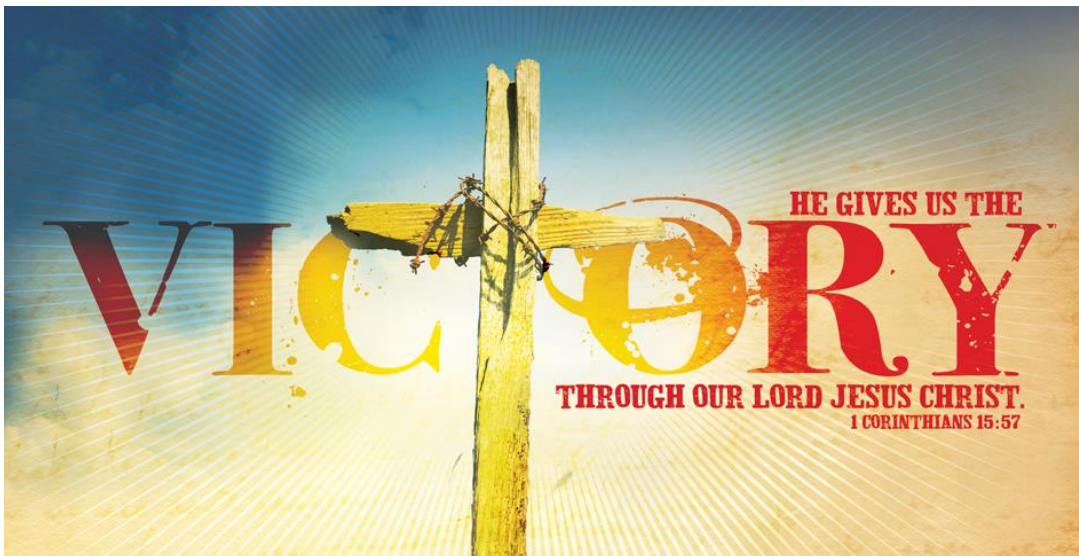
What was the second thing that the devil tried to get Jesus to do that was wrong? (**Verses 5-7**)

How did Jesus answer the devil the second time? (**Verse 8**) Where did he get his answer this time? (**Hint: Look at the little letter leading you to the footnote on verse 8.**)

What was the third thing the devil tried to get Jesus to do wrong? (**Verses 9-11**)

How did Jesus answer this third time? (**Verse 12**) Where did he get his answer from? (**Hint: Look at the little letter leading you to the footnote on verse 12.**)

Jesus always trusted God the Father and what he said. He trusted perfectly for us because we don't always trust God. He did this so that we would be covered with his perfection.





KIDS' BIBLE CAMP

Day 3: Trust Part 2



Let's read **Acts 27** in the Bible. Where was Paul trying to sail to? (**Verse 1**)

What made it hard for them to get there? (**Verses 4, 7, 14, & 20**)

When the people on the ship had given up all hope of being saved, what did Paul say to them? (**Verses 22-26**)

Why did Paul trust that he and all the people on the ship would be saved? (**Verses 23, 25**)

At the end of the chapter, what happened to all the people on the ship? (**Verse 44**)

With what we learned from Moses' life and Paul's life, why can we trust God?

Let's read the following parts of God's Word and answer the question: Why can we trust God?

Numbers 23:19 (NIRV) God isn't a mere human. He can't lie. He isn't a human being. He doesn't change his mind. He speaks, and then he acts. He makes a promise, and then he keeps it.

Joshua 23:14 (NIRV) The Lord your God has kept all the good promises he gave you. Every one of them has come true. Not one has failed to come true. And you know that with all your heart and soul.

The Bible says, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding."* (**Proverbs 3:5**) God has taught us to trust him, no matter what everything else looks like and no matter what anyone else says. We always trust God knowing...





KIDS' BIBLE CAMP

Day 4: Triumph Part 1



When someone wins a gold medal at the Olympics, what does the celebration look like?



Let's read **Numbers 20:1-13** from the Bible. What was the problem that the Israelites had? (**Verse 2**)

What did the LORD tell Moses to do to fix the problem? (**Verses 7-8**)

What did Moses do? (**Verses 10-11**) Was this right or wrong? (**Verse 12**)

Because Moses did not trust in the LORD, what would happen to him? (**Verse 12**)



Even though Moses had “broken the rules” and sinned against God, God still did something very loving for him. Let’s read **Deuteronomy 31:1-8** from the Bible. God told Moses that he would not cross the Jordan River and go to the land God had promised to their ancestors. Who would cross over the Jordan River ahead of the people? (**Verse 3**)

What would God do with the enemies of the land? (**Verses 3-5**)

Moses tells the Israelites not to be afraid as they go into this promised land. Why should they not be afraid? (**Verses 6, 8**)

Now let’s jump ahead a couple of chapters and read **Deuteronomy 34:1-9** from the Bible. What did the LORD show Moses? (**Verses 1-4**)

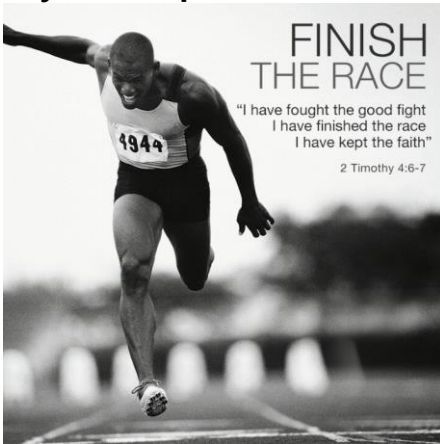
Why do you think the LORD showed this to Moses?





KIDS' BIBLE CAMP

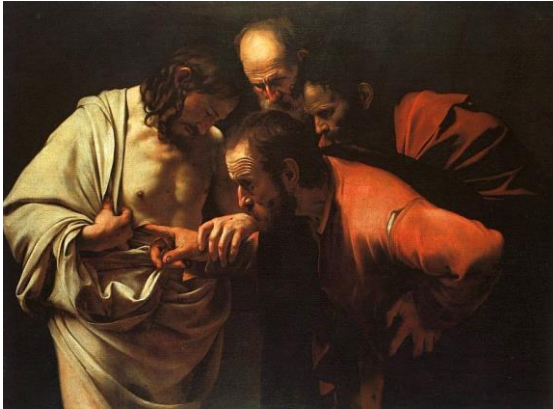
Day 4: Triumph Part 2



Sometimes it is really hard to finish a race. You've spent so much energy already. You've given it all you can give, but you still have a little farther to go. Paul realized the same thing. Let's read **2 Timothy 4:6-8** in the Bible. Paul says that the time for his departure is near, the time when he finishes his race. If life is a race, what do you think the finish line is?

What does he know is in store for him when he finishes his race? (**Verse 8**) What is that?

How does someone get the crown of righteousness? (**Verse 8**)

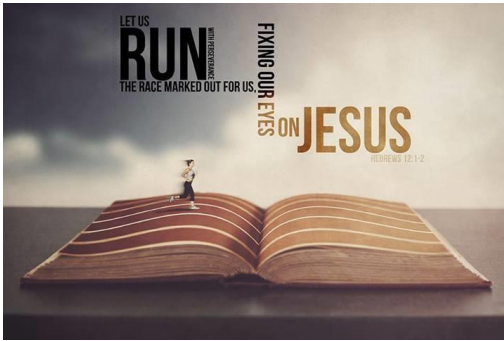


Jesus' followers saw him "lose" when they saw him crucified, died, and buried in a tomb. But then he rose from the dead and came specifically to see his followers! Let's read **John 20:19-31** from the Bible. When Jesus appeared to his disciples, what was the first thing he said to them? (**Verse 19**)

What did Jesus show them? (**Verse 20**) Why do you think he did that? (**Verses 26-27**)

What peace did the disciples have knowing that Jesus came back to life after dying? (**Verse 31**)

Even though we weren't there to see Jesus that day, Jesus talked about us. He said, *"Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed."* We don't always get to see the victory, but Jesus tells us that we have it because he showed himself to his followers as someone who died but then came back to life. This means that our sins are gone, paid for by Jesus' blood. This means that Jesus' life was perfect and everything he did perfectly covers us. What's more is that Jesus promises that he is preparing a place for us in heaven right now and will come back so that we can be with him forever in heaven. (**John 14:1-6**)



Until that day, we have a race to run, just like Paul. How can we make it to the finish line of life, win the gold medal, and live with Jesus forever?

How can we help keep people's eyes fixed on Jesus so that they can make it to the finish line of life so that they can win the same victory we have?

Who will we tell about Jesus and the gold medal victory we won in Jesus?





LIGHT OF THE VALLEY

—LUTHERAN CHURCH—

SHINING THE LIGHT OF JESUS

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Mondays at 7:00 pm

Bible Study for All Ages

Sundays at 9:15 am

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