

**Sermon Discussion Guide**  
“Together” Series  
Part 2: Grow in Faith (Hebrews 12:1–3)

**Icebreaker Questions:** (*Option #1*): What does your perfect Saturday look like? (*Option #2*): What’s a bucket-list item for you this year (or in life in general)?

**Prayer:** Take a few moments at the beginning of your group time to pray for God’s presence and blessing on your discussion. At the end of your gathering, pray for one another and ask God to use your time together to strengthen your faith and make you more like Jesus.

**Read:** Hebrews 12:1–3; also see Hebrews 11:1 and 11:6, 2 Thes. 1:1–4

**Big Idea:** Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, and the conviction of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). We grow in faith by laying aside every weight and sin, running the race set before us, and fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer (author) and perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:2).

**Discussion Questions**

1. What was the most encouraging, convicting, confusing, or thought-provoking part of the sermon or Scripture reading to you this week, and why?
2. Read Heb. 11:1 and Heb. 11:6. What do we learn about faith from these verses?
  - a. What are we “hoping for” as Christians? (Heb. 11:1) What do we “not see” yet we have assurance of? (Heb. 11:1)
  - b. What strikes you about Heb. 11:6? Why is it impossible to please God without faith? How does he reward us when we seek him? Are these present or future rewards?
3. Read Heb. 12:1–3. Notice that growing in faith involves our eyes, minds, and feet. We are called to “fix our eyes on Jesus” (v. 2), “consider” (think of) him (v. 3), and “run” to him (v. 1).
  - a. What do each of these mean or look like, practically? (Consider the context surrounding these phrases, too.)
  - b. Which of these areas do you naturally gravitate toward or feel most gifted in? Which of these areas do you want to grow in? What would this look like?
4. How does “considering” Jesus keep us from “growing weary and losing heart” (v. 3)? How does this play out practically in your life? What things do you think about Jesus that strengthen you and/or keep you from losing heart?
5. What is the difference between “everything that hinders” and “the sin that so easily entangles” (v. 1)? What does it look like to “throw off” these things? What is one way you would like to apply this in your life?
6. Where do you see the gospel in today’s passage? How does today’s text and discussion make Jesus/the gospel more precious to you?
  - a. How does the second half of v. 2 (“For the joy set before him...throne of God”) impact our lives, worship, or faith?
7. What is one specific way you would like to apply today’s Scripture readings or small group discussion this next week? Is there one step the Holy Spirit is prompting you to take?

## Scripture Reading

### **Hebrews 11:1, 6 (NIV)**

1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ... 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

### **Hebrews 12:1–3 (NIV)**

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him, he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

### **2 Thessalonians 1:1–4 (NIV)**

1 Paul, Silas, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. 4 Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.