

Running – Finishing Well

Weekend Discussion Questions

July 2-3, 2011

Community:

- If you've ever run a race or an event, what was it like when you finally crossed the finish line?
- Did your physical training and preparation have any effect on other areas of your life? How?

Core:

- Has your understanding or concept of faith (*the confidence that God is who He says He is—loving, good, kind, powerful—and will do everything He's promised to do*) changed or grown throughout this series? If so, share some of the changes with the group.
- How was Jesus' teaching *inconvenient* to the people He originally shared the truth to...and how is it just as *inconvenient* to us today?
- What are some *intrusive* parts of Jesus' teaching that you struggle with the most—for yourself or for others in your life?
- Read Luke 18:18-27. What does this passage tell us about how Jesus will usually handle people who disagree or refuse to follow what He says?
- How would you answer this question that Jim asked, "What do we do when what we believe(d) to be true about God stands in the way of our personal comfort, goals, wishes and desires?"
- Jim also said there were 3 basic options to this dilemma: (1) Keep doing what you're doing and feel guilty (2) Quit and (3) Change what you believe about what God really means. Discuss some of the ways we have (or continue to) act on these options in life and faith.
- Why do you think homosexuality is such a powder keg of emotion—more so than any other area of disagreement between what God says to be true and what we may want to believe?
- Discuss whether you are really "*looking for God's truth for your life*" and whether you are "*open to the idea that His truth may be different than what you thought it was or what you wanted it to be*"...and what that looks like.
- Read 2 Timothy 4:7. What sort of "good fight" is Paul referring to here?
- Does "keeping the faith" mean we will never doubt or question God? If not, why?

Challenge:

- If the "Running" series has challenged what you originally believed about God, don't give up, find a small group on Flatironlist or contact someone on the staff to talk and work through your struggle in faith.
- In preparation for the fall series, begin reading the book of Romans in your Bible.

Read a chapter a day and jot down your thoughts and insights to refer back to when Jim and Scott begin the series this fall.