



## **Choosing to Pursuing Jesus – Week 2**

### **5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide**

#### **Day 1: Laying Aside Every Weight**

**Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3**

**Devotional:** As we begin this journey, let's reflect on the "weights" in our lives that hinder our spiritual progress. These may not be sins, but they can still slow us down in our pursuit of Christ. What activities, habits, or thought patterns are holding you back from fully embracing God's purpose for your life? Remember, God has a unique purpose for each of us. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any weights you need to lay aside. As you do this, focus on the joy set before you - a closer relationship with Jesus and a life lived in alignment with His will.

#### **Day 2: Confronting Sin**

**Reading: 1 John 1:5-10**

**Devotional:** Today's passage reminds us of the reality of sin in our lives and God's faithfulness to forgive. The sermon mentioned various sins that can entangle us - from pride and envy to more overt transgressions. What sin "easily entangles" you? Remember, confessing our sins isn't about shame, but about restoration and freedom. God is "faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Take time today to confess any sin the Holy Spirit brings to mind and receive God's cleansing and forgiveness. Let this be a step towards running your race with endurance.

#### **Day 3: Enduring with Christ's Strength**

**Reading: Philippians 4:10-13**

**Devotional:** The Christian life often requires endurance through trials and temptations. Today's passage reminds us that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. This includes resisting temptation, persevering through hardship, and continuing to run our race even when we're tired. Reflect on a current challenge in your life. How might you approach it differently if you truly believed Christ's strength was available to you? Ask God to fill you with His power today, enabling you to endure whatever lies ahead.



#### **Day 4: Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus**

##### **Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3 (revisited)**

**Devotional:** As we return to our initial passage, let's focus on Jesus, "the author and perfecter of our faith." He endured the cross, scorning its shame, for the joy set before Him. What was that joy? It was you - your reconciliation, your restoration, your healing. When we fix our eyes on Jesus, we're reminded of His great love for us and the example He set. Today, whenever you feel tempted or discouraged, consciously shift your focus to Jesus. Remember His endurance, His victory, and His current position at the right hand of the Father, interceding for you.

#### **Day 5: Running Our Race with Purpose**

##### **Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

**Devotional:** As we conclude this week's devotional, let's consider the race set before us. Paul compares the Christian life to a race, emphasizing the need for discipline and purpose. What is the specific "race" God has set before you? It might be a ministry, a relationship to nurture, a character trait to develop, or a specific calling to fulfill. Whatever it is, approach it with the dedication of an athlete in training. Remember, we're not just running aimlessly, but with a clear purpose - to honor God and finish well. Today, take some time to clarify your spiritual goals and recommit to running your race with endurance, keeping your eyes fixed on the ultimate prize: Jesus Christ.