

## Running the Race of Your Life: Mission Participant's Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To motivate us to step out and participate in God's calling of people to himself.

**Sermon Refresher:** Keith interviewed Patrick Cox to unpack principles of evangelism (sharing the truth and hope of Christianity). They emphasized the importance of gaining credibility and spending credibility. Gaining credibility with those who don't yet believe includes things like working hard in your responsibilities, striving for excellence, and being a faithful Christian around them. Spending credibility can include sharing how God has worked in your own life, inviting people to church, or discussing a book with them.

**Icebreaker:** Who was someone that was crucial in your becoming a Christian? What was it about them?

**Transition:** Since the sermon explored a lot of the practices, in this week's sermon discussion we are going to reflect on a biblical passage that grounds and reinforces a lot of the practices.

**Discussion:**

1. What fears do you have when you think about talking with people who don't believe about Christianity?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:9-21.

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**9** So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. **11** Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. **12** We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in

the heart. **13** For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. **14** For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; **15** and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. **16** From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. **18** All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; **19** that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

3. Paul lists several motivations for evangelism. List them out together.
4. Paul says that he no longer regards people according to the flesh, meaning that he does not see and assess people from merely our cultural standards. What would it look like for us to see people more in the way that God sees them?
5. What is an ambassador? How does thinking of ourselves as ambassadors change the way we think about our lives?
6. Where or to whom has God placed you as an ambassador at this stage in the race of your life?
7. Do you think you are representing God well in the various places God has placed you?
8. What is a step you would like to take to be a better ambassador for Christ?

**Sharing and Prayer:**

*As a group, have each one pray for a person that he or she would like to see come to believe.*

## Running the Race of Your Life: Mission Exercise

Who is someone that you believe God is wanting you to reach out to?

Where are they at on the spectrum of belief?



1. Unbelieving and uninterested
2. Unbelieving but aware they need something
3. Searching
4. Believes in God, but doesn't understand Christianity
5. Understands Christianity, but hasn't trusted it for themselves
6. Has become a Christian
7. Has believed in Christ, but is going through some doubts or struggles
8. Has believed in Christ, but are being tempted

What ability to speak into their life do you have? Does they respect you? Does they know you care them?

What is a way you can help them take a step on the spectrum of belief?

Some ideas:

- Pray for them
- Show care and concern for them in some practical way
- Spend time with them
- Share your own story of how God has worked in your life
- Ask them questions about what they believe and why?
- Invite them to church with you
- Give them a book and offer to read and discuss it together (Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis, The Reason for God by Tim Keller, Making Sense of God by Tim Keller, Encounters With Jesus by Tim Keller, The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel)