



## Discussion Questions for weeks of March 28, 2010

### BIG IDEA:

The Christian Life is not an easy one. The bible makes it clear "in this world you will have trouble". But because Christ has overcome the world we are promised that when we are in right standing with God we will be able to have incredible Joy not only in heaven but here on earth.

Hebrews 12:1-2 tells us not only to look to the example Christ gave us in how we are to live, but also to the example of how he endured the race set before him. It tells us that by focusing on the joy his trial would bring, he was able to endure. Now we are called to focus on the joy God gives to us and promises us for obedience. This week's discussion is all about focusing on the joy of a right relationship with God. Focusing on this is how we run and endure even in difficulty.

### ICE BREAKER:

What is the longest you have had to wait at a restaurant? Have you ever ruined your appetite before a meal you really liked by eating before because you were so hungry?

### DISCUSSION:

Look up and read Hebrews 12:1-2 together. How was Jesus able to endure crucifixion?

*The bible says he did this for the joy set before him.*

What do you think the joy set before Jesus' was? What does this tell us about how we endure?

*A) His joy was the joy of being obedient to God and saving a broken world. This gave him the motivation needed to endure death, even death on a cross. B) We endure in the same way by remembering and focusing on the joy set before us.*

What happened to Christ after he endured? God rewards a Race runner with endurance, just like Christ was rewarded (seated at the right hand of God...name above all names etc.) we are promised that he will reward us. What are some ways God rewards his children?

What are the hardest things about living a Christian life for kids your age?

*Allow discussion...*

What are some of the joys that we have promised in this life and in heaven that allow us to endure?

*Answers will vary, but some include: Knowing God, Heaven, doing what we were created for...etc.*

What are some ways these joys have allowed you to endure the difficulties of this life?

*i.e. Focusing on the Joy of heaven gives us strength to endure. Experiencing the Joy of knowing and experiencing God makes every thing else in our life pale in comparison...etc.*

What are some of the ways that not enduring has not only cost you joy, but caused you pain?

Does your life have joy?

### APPLICATION:

What is one way you could fix your eyes more on the joy set before you this week?

Have everyone ask one older person who is a Christian (a teacher, parent, coach, friend, family member, etc.) about how they continue following Christ even when it is hard. Or what motivates them to press on and not give up.



## MEMORY VERSE HEBREWS 12:1-2

*Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Looking to Jesus the founder and Perfecter of our faith who for the Joy set before him endured the cross despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*