

INTRO

- What is one thing in your life you wish you could go back and have a do-over?

READ

Heb 12:1-3

REFLECT & RESPOND

In the Heb 12 scripture, our faith-life journey is described as a long-distance race. 3 aspects are critical for running our race well:

- 1) **Laying Aside** all hindrances and sin
- 2) **Endurance**
- 3) **Looking Ahead** to Jesus so as not to grow weary or fainthearted

Qu: how is seeing your faith-life journey as a race helpful? How can it be harmful?

In another metaphor for our faith-life journey, we've been looking at our lives like a story. Oftentimes, we have internalized broken messages or stories about ourselves and reality that we carry into adulthood.

Over the last couple weeks, we've been encouraged and challenged to *lay aside* these aspects of our story that hinder us. Lay aside doesn't mean we ignore or minimize our past, but that we come to both see our story (thereby grow in self-awareness) and *own* our story in order to *rewrite* our story from a gospel perspective.

Remember, **our past has profoundly shaped our present, but it does not have to determine our future.**

Qu: Do you agree/disagree with this? Discuss

Now we get to rewrite our stories as we *look ahead* to and *consider* Jesus within our broken story.

COMING HOME: finding your story within God's Story

It's impossible for your true self to live in a false story. So we must begin by relocating our story in the good news Story of God.

DOING THE WORK: God's & Ours

Therefore....work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. — Phil 2:12-13

Rewriting our story is a partnership with God: God works in us and we put God's work into effect by working it out in our lives.

Qu: what are some ways God works in us? What are some ways we are to work it out in our lives?

[An example: if our old story tells us "we need to be liked and accepted by others," we must rewrite that story by applying the gospel: we are accepted and loved by God and so even if we don't get other's acceptance or approval, we have the One that matters most.]

Exercise: write out as many as apply to your story:

My broken story told me _____, but God and the gospel now tell me _____.

The gospel gives us the hope and agency to bring about real change in our lives.

Qu: what has been the biggest challenge & encouragement for you from this series?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for God's truth and grace to rewrite broken stories in our lives
- Be a mouthpiece for God's truth and grace by praying over one another