

Looking Unto Jesus

Small Group Discussion Guide

"Looking Unto Jesus" -- Pastor Mirek Hufton

1. SERMON RECAP

In this message, I reminded us that we are each running a faith race -- and the key to running it well is keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. I walked us through how Jesus is found on every page of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, showing us just how central and glorious he really is. The core challenge I left us with is this: stop looking at the waves, stop looking at the world, and look away to Jesus -- because the amount of faith in your heart determines how you rise above every circumstance you face.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV)

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

3. ICE BREAKER

Have you ever watched a race -- in person, on TV, or even participated in one yourself? What do you remember most about it, and did anyone lose focus at the wrong moment?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Getting into the text

In Hebrews 12:1-2, we're told to run with endurance while looking unto Jesus. In your own words, what do you think it means to look away to Jesus in your daily life? What makes that so hard to do consistently?

2. Digging a little deeper

I talked about Peter walking on water in Matthew 14 -- he did fine until he took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the boisterous waves. Can you think of a time in your own life when your "waves" -- a difficult situation,

scary news, or an overwhelming season -- pulled your focus away from Jesus? What happened, and what brought your eyes back?

3. Making it personal

I shared that Jesus is found throughout every single book of the Bible -- from the seed of a woman in Genesis all the way to the King of Kings in Revelation. Which of those descriptions of Jesus that I shared meant the most to you personally, and why does that particular picture of him speak to your heart right now?

4. Honest conversation

I said something pretty direct in the sermon: "It's not the circumstances we face that's the issue -- it's the faith in your heart." That's a challenging thought. Do you agree? Is there a danger in that statement being misunderstood or misapplied? How do we hold onto that truth without dismissing the very real pain people experience?

5. Faith and the Word

Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. I challenged us to fill our lives with faith -- through reading Scripture, studying, praying, and surrounding ourselves with faith-building voices. On an honest scale of 1 to 10, how intentional are you right now about building your faith daily? What one thing is most getting in the way?

6. Looking ahead together

I said the goal of the Christian life is to have more of Jesus tomorrow than you had today -- growing in faith, being filled with his Spirit, and running toward him as the finish line. As a group, what does it look like practically for you to run together rather than alone? How can this small group help each other keep their eyes on Jesus this week?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

Choose one 10-minute window every morning this week -- before you check your phone, scroll the news, or open social media -- and spend it speaking directly to Jesus out loud. You can pray, read one passage of Scripture, or simply say, "Jesus, I want more of you today than I had yesterday." Keep a simple note on your phone each day rating how it went (1-5 stars). Bring your notes back to the group next week and share what shifted -- or what made it harder than you expected.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for focused faith -- Ask God to help each person in the group identify the specific "waves" that most easily pull their eyes off Jesus, and to give them a breakthrough moment of refocused trust this week.
- Pray for a hunger for the Word -- Ask the Holy Spirit to create a genuine appetite in every group member to get into Scripture daily, so that faith rises naturally from the inside out, just as Romans 10:17 promises.
- Pray for anyone in the group facing a "90-day diagnosis" moment -- Whether it's a health crisis, a financial

pressure, a broken relationship, or a fear about the future, lift up anyone who needs to make a bold, faith-filled decision to look to Jesus rather than the circumstances staring them down.

7. MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 12:2a (NKJV)

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

Leader tip: Don't rush past the ice breaker -- sometimes the lightest question opens the deepest conversation. And if Question 4 sparks some pushback, lean into it! That's exactly the kind of honest, real discussion that builds genuine community and lasting faith.