



WEEK 2

Without a finish line, we race to
NOWHERE.

Without a prize, we race for
NOTHING.



1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (NLT)

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!²⁵ All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.

**What we value determines
how we RUN.**

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 (NLT)

*So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing.
²⁷I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should.
Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.*

Great **STARTS** don't always have great finishes.

Great finishes don't always have great [STARTS](#).

Joshua 1:1-2

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: ² "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites."

SO WHAT?

Winning requires [FINISHING](#).

John 17:4

I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

Acts 20:24

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

NOTES:



"Good is the enemy of great. And that is one of the key reasons why we have so little that becomes great. We don't have great schools, principally because we have good schools. We don't have great government, principally because we have good government. Few people attain great lives, in large part because it is just so easy to settle for a good life." — James C. Collins, [Good to Great](#)

How to run the race of life with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I recognize you as Savior; and I choose to run the race with you as my Risen LORD.

Help me to make the most of every lap in each area of my life.

In Your name, Amen.

Now What? [For Further Reflection]:

- :: Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How do you define a win in life?
- :: How does God define a “win” in life? What would He see as losing?
- :: What is the value of having a finish line and a prize?
- :: Identify specific ways to successfully “run” the race of life and win.
- :: Discuss the connection between a start and a finish. Identify a time when you experienced a start that did not match your finish.
- :: Winning requires finishing. What is God waiting for you to finish?
- :: Invite someone to pray for you & help hold you accountable to do it.

Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the
New International Version [NIV].
Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – September 9 & 10, 2017

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Check out **Pastor Shawn’s Blog** at:
www.liveSENT.today
<http://livesent.heritageqc.com>

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page depicting a road with a dashed white center line, curving upwards to form a semi-circle. The road is dark grey with a slight 3D effect.

“So run to win!”

- The Apostle Paul, 1 Corinthians 9:24b(NLT)

FAMILY CONNECTION IDEAS:

At Heritage, we want to help our families win! So during the “Off to the Races” sermon series, we’re providing ideas each week for you to make every lap count by being more intentional with your time and with the kids in your life. Here are some more suggestions:

Morning Time:

The morning routine can be stressful and frustrating for families while they work to get everyone out the door on time with the things they need. If you feel yourself losing your patience this week, follow the advice you give your kids/grandkids: *Pause, take a deep breath & count to ten before responding.*

Drive Time:

During your drive time this week, ask your child: *Who in your life needs your friendship?* Brainstorm some ways they can be intentional in building greater friendship with that person. Then, together pick one way to intentionally do that this week. Celebrate together when it happens.

Dinner Time:

Take turns answering the following questions as a family:

Child: *Who is your most “unlikely” friend? Why do you think you’re friends?*

Adult: *Who was your best friend when you were a kid? What did you like to do together?*

Bed Time:

With your child/grandchild, read Acts 9:26-28. Discuss how Barnabas accepted Saul when no one else would. [*i.e. he went with him, supported him with the rest of the apostles, he brought Saul into the group*] Point out: Friends accept one another. Think of ways that each of you could accept a new friend into your life. Ask God to help you accept others as friends.

Have a great week building strong relationships with your family!

Ideas adapted from Parent Cue resources by The reThink Group.



Want more ideas on how to connect with your child?



Download the **PARENT CUE APP** for iPhone & Android to gain insights about your child’s age, ideas for connecting & ways to win as a family.



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