



## **GROUP ICE BREAKER**

Tell the group what's been happening in your life lately using the following categories: something old, something new, something happy, and something blue.

## **REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS**

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will take time to "go over and see" this week.
- I will approach fear-producing situations with confidence because God is with me.
- I will be obedient to God, trusting he will use an ordinary person to do the extraordinary.
- I will give God what is in my hand and trust him with the results.

## **THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP**

The image of a race is a common metaphor used by many of the writers of Scripture. The start of a race is fun, it's easy. But finishing is hard work. The question is, will you finish well? We saw last week that God called Moses at the burning bush, and after he thought his race was done, that's when God called him. Moses didn't want to go, he was afraid, but ultimately agreed to go. When God calls you, you will be tempted to quit. But then God calls you again, and again, and again. And if we're going to finish the race, there are two things we have to do. The first is to persist in prayer, to continue to return to God over and over again. One of the gifts that God wants to give us is growth, the king of growth that only comes when we persist again and again. The second thing that we need to do is find support. The writer of Hebrews says others have run before you, others will run alongside you. If we're going to finish well, we need our own little cloud of witnesses. You need to find a few people who inspire you, who will keep you going. Remember that we have a God who says to you and me, "I'm not quitting on you! I have you in the grip of my love, and I will not let you go. I won't!"

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Read Hebrews 11:23-28. Describe the faith that was demonstrated by Moses' parents and Moses himself. What did it require of them? What was the result they experienced?
2. Moses thought his race was done when he fled Egypt into the desert, that he has missed his opportunity. Have you felt that way, or feel that way now? Why?
3. Share a situation or time when you were tempted to quit because of opposition or the feeling of isolation? How did you get thru it?
4. Why was it so important that Moses "returned to the Lord" with his complaint and his protest? What did this do for him?

**EXTRAORDINARY**

# PERSIST WITH GOD

Matt VanCleave  
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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

5. The key to Christian persistence is prayer. It begins there, is sustained there, and ends there. Why do you think that is? What keeps you from persevering in prayer?
6. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. Everyone needs others in life who support, believe, encourage and pray for you. Do you have people like this in your life? How did you find them? If you don't, how can you find them?
7. Read Romans 8:37-39. The Bible is the story of God's perseverance in not giving up on us. Do you believe that God will never give up on you, that He has you in the grip of His love and won't let go? Why or why not?

## NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will keep running.
- I will persevere in prayer.
- I will ask someone to join my little cloud of witnesses.
- I will speak words of encouragement to others.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Hebrews 11:23-28
- Hebrews 12:1-2
- Exodus 4:31
- Exodus 5:1-9
- Exodus 5:13-23
- Exodus 6:1-13