



Don't Quit | Ryan Wekenman | 8.22.21

Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

If you could time travel, to what decade would you travel back to?

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, Ryan preached a necessary message for all Believers during the times we are living in. Perseverance in our faith is so important as we battle the opposition from a Babylonian culture. To not only run the race set before us, but to finish well. We do this not for ourselves but for the Kingdom of Heaven and the eyes of the prodigals who are searching for home. Before we dive into the sermon, take some time to check in with your Group by answering these questions.

What's one thing you're believing for this season?

What is one thing you feel like God is teaching you right now?

What was the most challenging part of your week?

What was the highlight of your week?

GROW

Read Daniel 6:1-10

What deep rooted insecurities do you think the officials were displaying when they wished failure upon Daniel who was working diligently?

What does Daniel's decision to not hide his prayer life say about his perseverance?

When we try to be a light to those around us, often we expect a magic magnetic force to take over, drawing people towards us to instantly change the world. Relationships with people are much more complicated than this. We often don't factor in jealousy and insecurities of other people that could potentially throw us into a dark place, much like the lion's den. This den is explained in this passage as a place where Daniel would be thrown if he chose faithfulness to God over King Darius. The officials did everything they could to find fault in Daniel even though they could find no basis wrong with him: except that he worshipped God. They knew it would put Daniel in a predicament.

Just as the officials tried to force Daniel to worship an idol other than God, culture will work hard to convince us to leave the narrow road for the broad gate. The way of the cross cannot be explained in any other way than the supernatural: it's foolishness to an automatic, self-obsessed world. It can feel exhausting and dark to feel like our efforts are going nowhere, but we must remember to persevere in hard times. God leads us through valleys, but we also will experience the fullness of walking with Christ where we experience the highest peaks.

Daniel showed faith and deep commitment to God by refusing to hide his prayer life with God. He did not want to deny the Father in front of men even if it meant adversity because he knew God would protect him. We can learn from Daniel's story by remembering to not let outside influences affect our prayer and spiritual life. Marathons are long and often come with

setbacks, but there is nothing like finishing the race. As Ryan reminded us on Sunday, don't quit!

Can you think of a specific time in your life you were nervous to choose the way of the cross because of adversity?

What are some ways this week you can improve your prayer life to have the stamina you need to finish the race?

M O V E

Read Hebrews 12:1-4

What stands out to you in this passage?

Is there someone in your life who demonstrates perseverance, and what can you learn from them?

With so many things happening in the world it's easy to give up on things that God has assigned you to do. You can sometimes fall prey to being hopeless if you aren't careful. The good news is that no matter how bad you think things are, Jesus came to earth, endured as a human, died for your sins, and understands everything you are going through. If you would fix your eyes on him and tell him of your struggles, your load will be light as you try to navigate trials in your life. While easier said than done, when we adjust our focus from our problems to the problem solver, we find His burden to be lighter than the world's.

There will be times when the way of the cross can feel lonely in a world that has rejected Him. However, the author of Hebrews reminds us that we have a "great cloud of witnesses" championing us each in our own race. Meditating on this truth gives us the necessary spiritual

fuel to continue and press on in the faith. The legacies of the ultimate faith leaders, such as Daniel, who have gone before us encourages us in the importance of perseverance in our faith.

How will you take time out this week to encourage yourself and others in your life to persevere as the great cloud of witnesses encourage us all?

Consider verse three in this passage. How might that encourage you this week to press on in the hard decisions?

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

- Hebrews 12:1-3