






	<p>AGAINST THE ROPES: Finishing the Race</p>
 BIG IDEA	<p>The Christian life is an endurance race requiring perseverance, focus on Jesus, and passing the leadership baton to the next generation.</p>
 ICE BREAKER	<p>Share your favorite or most memorable Cal sermon!</p>
 MAIN POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian community becomes like family over time • The Christian life is an endurance race, not a sprint • Focus on running your specific course, not someone else's • Success requires perseverance, focus on Jesus, and removing hindrances • Leadership transitions are crucial moments in the church's journey • Faithful ministry involves equipping the next generation • The race is often won or lost in the handing off of the baton
 DISCUSS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How has being part of a church community shaped your life and faith journey? 2. What makes church relationships unique compared to other communities you're part of? 3. What "weights" or hindrances might be slowing you down in your spiritual journey? 4. How do you maintain focus on Jesus when life's distractions pull you in different directions? 5. What does it mean to run "the race marked out for you" rather than someone else's race? 6. In what ways are you currently "passing the baton" to others in your life? 7. How might God be calling you to invest in someone else's spiritual journey?
 NEXT STEP	<p>What specific step can you take this week to run your race with more purpose?</p>
 SCRIPTURE	<p>Philippians 1:3-8 I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.</p> <p>Hebrews 12:1-3 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.</p>
 NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK	<p>Join us next week and invite a friend as celebrate the resurrection of Jesus through Easter!</p>

Questions or Feedback? Email Groups@CentralAZ.com