



# GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 | RUN WITH PURPOSE

## WARM-UP QUESTION

What is a goal or aspiration you have in your life right now? What motivates you to pursue it?

## DISCUSS

Start your discussion by sharing what stood out to you from Sunday's message. Were there any new insights or key takeaways for you?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

- What key themes or phrases stand out to you in this passage?
- Paul chose to serve others to lead them to Jesus. Why is this significant, and what does it reveal about his understanding of humility and sacrifice in sharing the gospel? How can we apply this mindset in our own lives?
- Consider someone you know who exemplifies a servant's heart and a deep love for Jesus. What aspects of their demeanor or behavior made you perceive them this way? Who do you think God is calling you to serve in this way?
- What do you think it means to become "all things to all people?" How does this demonstrate God's heart for adaptability and love in sharing the gospel?
- How can we connect with people where they are without compromising our integrity?
- Paul emphasizes the importance of adaptability and self-discipline in sharing the gospel. Read Galatians 3:1-5. We are reminded that faith and salvation are not earned through our actions. How can we reconcile the idea that although we can't earn our salvation, we still have a vital role to play in living out our faith and serving others? What does this look like in practice?
- In what ways do you see Paul's willingness to serve and sacrifice for others reflect God's character? How can we emulate this in our own lives?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- What key themes or phrases stand out to you in this passage?
- What do you think Paul means when he compares the Christian life to a race? How does this metaphor resonate with your own spiritual journey?
- Where in the Bible do you see examples of people running their race well? Where do you see examples of people who didn't run their race well?
- In verse 24, Paul encourages us to "run to win." What does winning the prize look like for you in your faith?



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- Look back at verse 21. What does it mean to say, "I don't ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ"? How does this statement shape our understanding of grace and responsibility?
- What are some distractions or obstacles that are hindering your ability to run with purpose? How can you address these challenges?
- How can your community or small group better encourage one another in this race?
- What does this passage reveal about God's desire for us to pursue excellence in our spiritual lives? How does that reflect His character?

## CHALLENGE

- Review the list of ways you can be engaged in our church:
  - weekend worship
  - making a difference
  - getting in a group
  - giving first and best in time, talent, treasure,
  - building intentional relationships.
- Pick one of these to focus on this week to stay on mission with us. Determine an action step to take. Tell your group what you want to do, and ask them to help hold you accountable!
- Prayer is essential to nurturing faith, fostering community and fulfilling the church's mission. It is one way we can adopt a "battleship mentality" and go on offense against the Enemy's schemes. Take the initiative and come forward to receive prayer from the response team at the end of next week's service.

## RESPOND

- Based on what you just discussed, what do you think God is prompting you to do in response? Tell someone and let them know when you will do it.
- Pray together as a group for God to help each person run their race with focus and strength.