

Running the Race

CHARACTERS: 6

PROPS: Bible

COSTUMES: "Sunday" street clothes

SETTING: None specified

At rise: Reader and Kathy are on stage

READER: *(reading from a Bible)* Hebrews 12: 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.

JARROD, A & B & C: *(ad libbing as they run up on stage)* I want to be in the race! I'm fast! Let's go!

JARROD: Me too but who is this Percy guy? Is he fast?

KATHY: It's not a guy. It's perseverance. It means endurance. The ability to keep going when things are hard or difficult.

JARROD: no problem then. I've been training for at least a week and I'm on a high fiber diet as of yesterday. Now I just have to pick which Olympic sport to excel at.

KATHY: You can't just compete in the Olympics after training for one week. Athletes train for months or years on end.

JARROD: *(shocked and disappointed)* Years?

KATHY: Yes. Let's finish the scripture.

READER: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross. Think about Jesus so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

JARROD: I still don't get it.

KATHY: Maybe we can help you. *Asks audience (or A, B, C) about Olympics and going for the gold. Write "go for the Gold" on the dry erase board, being sure to capitalize Gold.* Let's imagine a race is going on. You have to get to the finish line to win.

JARROD: Everyone knows that.

KATHY: Since A & B volunteered, let's have a race between the three of you.

JARROD, A, B, C: *(ad lib)* Sure thing! I'll win! Let's do this.

KATHY: The finish line will be here. We'll start over there. You have to get to the finish line to win. So runners take your mark. Get set. GO! *(Runners start jogging).*

A takes 4 or 5 steps. Stops. Everyone else jogs in place while she talks.

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A: I quit. I'm tired. Actually I'm just lazy and want to stop. (*She sits, the rest start jogging, after 4-5 steps, JARROD stops, everyone jogs in place while he talks*)

JARROD: I think I would rather go watch TV than run this race. Bye. (*JARROD exits, others start jogging to finish line when VICKY stops*)

C: Forget running this race. These are not shoes meant to run races in. I quit. Bye.

B now finishes the race by herself.

KATHY: You are the winner. You never gave up. You had perseverance.

JARROD: I think I get it now. When Christians give up, it's like runners dropping out of a race.

KATHY: Exactly. Sometimes we quit being like Jesus, going to church or obeying God because we get lazy.

JARROD: Sometimes other things, like TV or sports or the wrong kind of friends keep us from being Christians.

KATHY: Sometimes we aren't training on a daily basis to be Christians by reading our Bibles and praying.

JARROD: Since being a Christian is more important than any Olympic sport, I need to make a modification to this slogan. (*erases the 'L' so the board says Go for God instead of Go for Gold.*)