

RUNNING the RACE

SUMMER Reading Plan

Life – and exercise – move at different paces for different people.

Some enjoy leisurely walks, strolls or rolls, while others speed-walk, jog or even sprint. Some people have a 26.2 sticker on their vehicle, indicating they've run a marathon, while others boast of running a half-marathon (13.1) or no marathon (0.0)!

Thankfully, you don't have to be an athlete of any kind to run the Christian "race." The Bible uses running metaphors, however, to encourage followers of Jesus to train, focus, persevere and attain the heavenly prize. Use this Summer Reading Plan to strengthen your faith and your relationship with Jesus. Complete one square each day or every other day, and you'll journey through significant chunks of the New Testament this summer. Feel free to invite a friend or family member to join you as a "running partner"!



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Mile 1 Read *Philippians 1*

Re-read verse 6 and consider how your faith journey is a work in progress.

Mile 3 Read *Philippians 3*

Look back at verses 13 and 14, and brainstorm a list of ways to keep your eyes on the heavenly "prize."

Mile 5 Read *Colossians 1*

Re-read verse 11. Name three specific ways God gives you strength and endurance.

Mile 7 Read *Colossians 3*

Look back at verses 23 and 24. What keeps you running for God, not for other people or for personal accolades?

Mile 9 Read *1 Timothy 1*

Doodle about how God's law keeps you from wandering away from him.

Mile 11 Read *1 Timothy 3*

What aspects of staying "above reproach" are most challenging for you as a follower of Jesus?

Mile 13 Read *1 Timothy 5*

Anonymous perform a kind deed for someone in your family or community.

Mile 15 Read *2 Timothy 1*

Describe specific ways your life reveals a spirit of power, a spirit of love and a spirit of self-discipline.

Mile 17 Read *2 Timothy 3*

Add a daily Bible-reading time to your spiritual training regimen.

Mile 19 Read *James 1*

Look back at verse 12. Reflect on how God has kept his promises to you. How does that help you during times of trial?

Mile 21 Read *James 3*

Re-read verses 17 and 18. Pray for godly wisdom as you continue your faith journey.

Mile 23 Read *James 5*

After re-reading verse 19, think of ways to reach out to people who have wandered away from God.

Mile 25 Read *John 20:1-18*

Consider how the good news of Jesus' resurrection gives you reasons to run and share the Gospel message.

Mile 26.2 Read *Revelation 2:10* Praise God aloud: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

➔ Mile 2 Read *Philippians 2*

Re-read verse 5 and pray to have the same attitude as Jesus.

Mile 4 Read *Philippians 4*

Write verse 13 on a sticky note and place it where you'll see it daily.

Mile 6 Read *Colossians 2*

Review verses 6 and 7, make a gratitude list and say a prayer of thanks to God.

Mile 8 Read *Colossians 4*

Write a note or letter to someone who needs spiritual encouragement.

Mile 10 Read *1 Timothy 2*

Re-read verses 5 and 6. Offer praise to Jesus for being our mediator and ransom — and for running the race perfectly for us.

Mile 12 Read *1 Timothy 4*

As you exercise, ponder verse 8 and brainstorm ways to build your spiritual muscles.

Mile 14 Read *1 Timothy 6*

Review verses 11 and 12. In what ways might faith be viewed as a fight? To whom have you made bold profession of your faith?

Mile 16 Read *2 Timothy 2*

Re-read verse 5. The next time you participate in or watch a sporting event, compare the value of God's "victor's crown" to earthly achievements.

Mile 18 Read *2 Timothy 4*

Memorize verse 7. Think about people you know who have already "finished the race." How can their example strengthen you?

Mile 20 Read *James 2*

Put your faith into action today by meeting someone's needs.

Mile 22 Read *James 4*

Review verse 8. Confess your sins to God and ask him to come near you.

Mile 24 Read *Luke 15:11-32*

When have you run away from God? What brought you back? When have you seen proof of God running toward you (see verse 20, as well as James 4:8)?

➔ Mile 26 Read *1 John 1*

Re-read verse 7. Write "Walk in the Light" on a sticky note, and place it by a lamp or light switch.



Monday – Ministry

- ◇ Pray for our church. Pray for Pastor Michael and his family, the deacons and their families, all those who serve and their families, that God would bless them and encourage them. Take the directory and pray over people in our church as God lays them on your heart. Pray God give rest and stir revival in us all this summer.
- ◇ Pray for the ministries where we serve others and those we support. For example: Sunday School, Victory Home, Hickey House, VBS, Senior Saints, CenterKids, Thrive Students, John and Kelsie Luna with FCA, Taya with TMS Global, Cleveland Care Center, White County Senior Center to name a few. Pray for God to encourage and bless each one and show His favor.
- ◇ Pray He continue to use you where you serve now and how He would want you to serve in the future.

Tuesday – The Times

- ◇ Pray for our leaders in the nation, state, and county. For the times we are living in that God would touch their hearts and give them wisdom. Pray for our Sherriff, Police Chiefs, law enforcement, Fire and EMS, Military, Schools, Teachers, Admin and Coaches for God to use them and keep them strong as they serve and to watch over them and protect them.
- ◇ Pray God use you to be salt and light and seek to positively impact our community. Pray the Lord send revival in our nation, state, community and schools and homes.

Wednesday – Witness

- ◆ Pray God give you boldness, courage, compassion, and a burden for lost people and for God to open doors of opportunity for you to share with those in your circle this summer.
- ◆ Pray God inspire and encourage us as a church to do more to show and share the love of Jesus to every person we see, know and meet.

Thursday – Thankful hearts and troubled hearts

- ◆ Spend time just thanking the Lord for His blessings. Take time to thank Him for what He has done, is doing and will do in your life.
- ◆ Take time to pray for those who are walking through trials and troubles of every kind and ask for God's healing touch and to meet their needs. Use our prayer list as a place to start. Make a summer prayer list of your own. Encourage them you are praying with a note, text or a call.

Friday – Family and Friends

- ◆ Begin by praying for your immediate family then move to praying for your entire family as God may lay them on your heart. Reach out and let them know you are praying and ask God how you can encourage them.
- ◆ Pray for personal friends and their needs as God brings them to your heart. Pray for God to bless them and encourage them. Even ask if there are specific ways you can pray and then look for ways to encourage them by a call, text, note or visit.