

# Staying on Course in Mission

*If anyone competes as an athlete... 2 Timothy 2:5*

**Mission is a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Course Markers:**

**1. There IS a \_\_\_\_\_ and a costly \_\_\_\_\_.**

*...He does not win the prize...*

- The ultimate reward is \_\_\_\_\_ the life and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Our joy is multiplied by \_\_\_\_\_ it with \_\_\_\_\_.

**Lap Check:** What awaits you at the finish line?

*...there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness... 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

**2. Staying the course requires \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Suffer hardship... competes as an athlete...*

- Those who win, \_\_\_\_\_ their lives to the \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Mission is a full \_\_\_\_\_, all \_\_\_\_\_ pursuit – not a \_\_\_\_\_.*

*“For me, the choice to live an ordinary life is no longer an option.”  
– Spiderman or Follower of Jesus?*

- Those who win, \_\_\_\_\_ their lives and forgo \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Mission requires \_\_\_\_\_ of lesser \_\_\_\_\_ for greater \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Lap Check:** Am I \_\_\_\_\_ to so much that I’m \_\_\_\_\_.

*I discipline my body...that I myself will not be disqualified.*

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

\_\_\_\_\_ doesn’t result in wins – \_\_\_\_\_ does!  
*“Genius is 1% \_\_\_\_\_ and 99% \_\_\_\_\_.”  
– Edison*

**Challenge:** Am I \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ or headed for a \_\_\_\_\_?

# Discussion Guide: *Staying the Course!*

2 Timothy 2:5

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**Opening:** Have you, or a close family member, ever competed as an athlete? What lessons did you learn that parallel our text?

**Alternate** (Last week's edited film review 😊)

**Interpret this morning's allegory.** How does Spiderman illustrate the Redemptive Story and our shared mission of spreading the Good News of that Story?

*"Peter Parker was just an ordinary, in fact somewhat geeky teenager. But his life was dramatically impacted when he was bitten by a radioactive spider. Pete the ordinary teen, suddenly begins to acquire extraordinary powers – powers like a super-spider. Peter Parker, knowing that he has the power to make a difference, faces a tormenting choice: Does he use the powers to fight evil and do good for humanity? That mission comes at the price of an ordinary life – the life of a teen who wants to fit in & fall in love & do the things all other teens do. He finally settles the choice w/ this statement:*

***"For me, the choice to live an ordinary life is no longer an option."***

1. When you dream of life's "prize" what images come to mind?
  - How does that prize motivate you during difficult times?
  - What are the difficulties and distractions that you face in pursuing that prize?
  - What do you think Paul would tell you in light of what you face? Spiderman? 😊
2. Share a life "win" that came as a result of dedication or discipline?
  - What were you pursuing?
  - What did "dedication" and "discipline" look like for you?
  - What did you have to "give up" or "sacrifice" to achieve your goal?
  - What are specific challenges to discipline and dedication in our world?
3. **What is one life-lesson from 2 Timothy that God is working out in your life?**

**Prayer Target:** Pray for hearts that passionately pursue God's glory and joy!

**Contextual Reminders:**

**We share in God’s glory, to the degree we endure in fulfilling His mission!**

Illustrations	“endure”	“glory”	verses
1: A soldier	not entangled	please the one	3-4
2: A athlete	strives lawfully	win the prize	5
3: A farmer	hard working	share of the crops	6
4: Jesus Christ	dead	risen	8
5: Paul	endure hardship	salvation with glory	9-10
6: The Creed	died with Him	live with Him	11
	endure	reign with Him	12

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warning: If we do not... No glory; but shame 12-13  
We deny Him He will deny us  
If we are faithless He remains faithful  
cf. Luke 9:23-26  
“Remind them of these & solemnly charge them...!” 14ff

“We **suffer** with Him, so that (*hina*) we may also be **glorified** with Him!”  
Romans 8:17f

“**Affliction** is producing for us an eternal weight of **glory!**” 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

“To the degree that you share in His **suffering** you may rejoice with **exultation!**”  
1 Peter 4:13

## Staying on Course in Mission

*If anyone competes as an athlete... 2 Timothy 2:5*

**Mission is a marathon.**

### **Course Markers:**

**1. There IS a finish line and a costly prize.**

*...He does not win the prize...*

- The ultimate reward is sharing the life and glory of Jesus.
- Our joy is multiplied by sharing it with others.

**Lap Check:** What awaits you at the finish line?

*...there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness... 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

**2. Staying the course requires focus.**

***Suffer hardship... competes as an athlete...***

- Those who win, dedicate their lives to the pursuit.  
*Mission is a full time, all out, pursuit – not a leisurely stroll.*  
*“For me, the choice to live an ordinary life is no longer an option.”*  
– Spiderman or Follower of Jesus?
- Those who win, discipline their lives and forgo convenience.  
*Mission requires letting go of lesser good for greater goals.*

**Lap Check:** Am I holding on to so much that I’m losing everything.

*I discipline my body...that I myself will not be disqualified.*

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Comfort doesn’t result in wins – sacrifice does!

*“Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration.” – Edison*

**Challenge:** Am I staying the course or headed for a loss?