



Pentecost

“We Are the Church Together”

Group or Individual Study guide

OPENING TO GOD [2 Minutes]

Greet everyone, and begin with 1 minute of silence to allow the group to open themselves to the Holy Spirit.

HOOK: Engaging the Topic [15 Minutes]

**Feel free to “pass” if you would rather not answer a question.*

**Please be respectful of time and give everyone a chance to share.*

1. What is the most important part of the church to you?
2. What is one thing about church you want to see change?

BOOK: Engaging the Word [20 Minutes]

Read Hebrews 12:1-3... So then, **with endurance, let’s also run the race** that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. **Let’s**

throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, ² and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne. ³ Think about the one who endured such opposition from sinners so that you won't be discouraged and you won't give up.

1. Have you been a race? If so, what type of race?
2. Who comes to mind when you think of "A great cloud of witnesses?"
3. What is God calling you "to throw off?"
4. How does one gain patience?
5. The passage advises us to keep our eyes on Jesus in order to finish. What does it mean to fix our eyes on Jesus?

LOOK: The effect of you [15 Minutes]

Your presence in your communities of faith has a profound impact on the way that the community operates. This means that your spirituality and presence matters.

1. What matters right now?
2. What is your perception of why there is so much anger?

"TOOK" [10 Minutes]

1. What can you do or not do right now under these stressful times?

Go In Peace [5 Minutes]

Invite someone to close in prayer, thanking God and praying for our community and world as we head toward Easter.