

# ON YOUR MARKS

# MARKS

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## WEEK 2 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - RUNNING THE RACE

### CONNECT - ICE BREAKER

- If you had to challenge someone to a race, which race are you more likely to win?
  - A distance race such as a 5K or a marathon?
  - A sprint such as a 40 or 100 yard dash?
  - A race to the refrigerator?
  - A race to judgment?

Have some fun discussing this with your group.

### CONSIDER

- What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

### CHRIST

- The sermon series title of “On Your Marks” brings up images of a race. One important aspect that you need to know in order to have any chance of winning a race is to know where the finish line is and what obstacles you’ll need to overcome in order to get there. **What type of race most accurately describes your spiritual journey?**
  - A marathon?
  - A sprint?
  - A relay race (a team race handing the baton to one another)?
  - Hurdles (constantly overcoming obstacles)?
  - A steeplechase (over hills and valleys, thru hazards, over walls)?

Discuss why you selected the type of race you did to describe your journey.

- There are two different perspectives from which to view success in any race or journey; from a worldly perspective or a Christian perspective. Like many, you may have started your journey looking at life from a worldly perspective, but eventually realized that your perspective needed to change to a Christian perspective or worldview. Some in that situation have said that they climbed to the top of the corporate ladder only to find it was leaning against the wrong building. **Discuss the difference between a worldly and Christian perspective and how you can make sure you are heading in the right direction on your journey or leaning against the right building?**

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-19 as a group.

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- This passage talks about the “ministry of reconciliation.” Reconciliation is defined as:
  - The process of two people or groups agreeing to make amends or come to a truce.
  - The **action** of making one view or belief compatible with another.God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (v18) and committed us to the message of reconciliation (v19). **Realizing that reconciliation is an action, how would you best describe the ministry or message of reconciliation?**
- Verse 16 tells us that “from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.” **Was there a time in your life when you only viewed people based on their worldly success? Explain your answers.**
- We often look for ways in one word to describe ourselves as a Christian. Disciple. Volunteer. Witness. Believer. This portion of scripture gives us another word to describe ourselves that is a bit more action-oriented; a reconciler. Here is a saying about reconciliation:
  - **Christ’s love is our MOTIVE, the Cross is our MESSAGE, Reconciliation is our MISSION. Does this saying help you understand what it means to be a reconciler? Discuss.**

## CALLING

- Part of our calling is recognizing our role in the Kingdom as messengers of the Gospel message; spreading the Good News of Christ and what He has done for us. Out of your love for Christ, make a commitment today that in this new year, you will be more committed than ever to be a reconciler; determined to help those in your sphere of influence be reconciled to God.
- **Daily Devotions:** Take the time to read the daily devotions associated with this study. Then, to continue with this spiritual habit of daily devotion with God, text JOINGOD to 81411 or use the Study tab in Northside’s App to receive devotions on a daily basis moving forward.
- **Further Study & Reflection:** What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation? Here’s one way to look at it: forgiveness is the action of one and reconciliation takes two. Reconciliation is the restoration of a relationship. We can forgive someone without restoring the relationship. Check out this interesting article from Christianity.com that expounds on this: <https://mynorthsi.de/reconciliation>
- **Memorize:** “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.” **Romans 5:10**