**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 1: Be Ready**

Review the video for this session.

**Engage**

Read [Matthew 25:1–13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt25.1-13).

**Consider**

The young women in today’s reading all started together. Sadly, they don’t end together. Connecting with other believers strengthens our dedication and encourages us to endure through the tough times. But this parable illustrates how, even in a similar group of friends, each individual chooses whether they will live for God and be ready for Jesus’ return.

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**What is the reward for being ready for Jesus’ return? |

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**What is the consequence of being unprepared for His return? |

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**What does this tell you about finishing strong in your relationship with Jesus? |

**Reflect**

Every day offers countless distractions from thinking about Jesus. They aren’t all bad things either. But living ready for Jesus’ return means always being mindful of His opinion about whatever you do.

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**What’s one of your activities or hobbies that might change if you factored in what Jesus might think about it or the way you do it? |

**Activate**

This week, before you start one of your fun activities, pause a moment to think about Jesus. Think about how your attitude or actions could honor Him while still having fun.

**Pray**

God, what can I do today that will help me better prepare for Jesus’ return? Help me be willing and ready. Help me to be bold to share the gospel with my friends and family, so they can be ready, too. Amen.

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 2: Know Jesus, Finish Strong**

**Engage**

Read [Philippians 3:6–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Php3.6-16).

**Consider**

The apostle Paul had been both influential and intimidating. He was known for his heritage, education, and persecution of Christians. The difference between Paul’s life prior to Jesus and his influence following his encounter with Jesus makes his transformation all the more powerful.

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**What does Paul now say is important in his life? |

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**What do you think Paul meant by saying he presses on to possess perfection? |

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**How is your life different now that you have a relationship with Jesus? |

**Reflect**

Your effort to be a good person will never be more impactful than your personal relationship with Jesus. God notices and will reward your work for Him. But the influence of your life comes from your heart to please God and be like Jesus.

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**Would you say you continue to press on in your relationship with Jesus? How so? |

**Activate**

Paul said he forgot what was behind. Take a moment to ask forgiveness for any sin or obstacle that is holding you back from pressing on with Jesus. Ask for the Holy Spirit’s help to forget the things of your past as you press on with Jesus.

**Pray**

Lord Jesus, thank You for my earthly rewards. I dedicate each of them to You. I want my identity to be in You, not in my accomplishments. My achievements are nothing compared to knowing You. Help me to forget the things that keep me from You. Help people in my life to see Your resurrection power in the way I love and serve You and them. Amen.

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 3: Finishing Strong How-tos**

**Engage**

Read [2 Timothy 4:1–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti4.1-8).

**Consider**

Today’s Scripture passage gives us direction on how to finish strong in our life of following Jesus. We are given a few practical and courageous how-tos we can practice in our daily life as reminders of how to finish strong.

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**Have you ever taken a stand for Jesus? |

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**What helped you in that moment to say or do the right thing? |

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**What is the outcome, according to verse [8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti4.8), for those who finish strong as Paul did? |

**Reflect**

Courage begets courage. That means, as you courageously follow Jesus by doing the things today’s reading tells us to do, your courage to carry on and finish strong will increase.

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**What are the four things Paul told Timothy to do in verse [5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti4.5)? |

**Activate**

Which of the four things is easiest for you to do? Which is hardest? Find a way to intentionally put one of these four into practice in the next week.

**Pray**

Father God, help me fight the good fight of faith, finish my race, and remain faithful to You. Give me the courage to lead others to Jesus. Amen.

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 4: A Challenge from Jesus**

**Engage**

Read [John 21:15–19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn21.15-19).

**Consider**

You may or may not know that the apostle Peter denied Jesus three times right before He was crucified. After Jesus was resurrected, He had an encounter with Peter. It was in this encounter that Jesus challenged Peter to finish strong.

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him? |

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**Why do you think Jesus gives us second chances to finish strong? |

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**What is the danger in assuming Jesus will always give us another chance later in life? |

**Reflect**

We don’t know when Jesus will return, so we need to always be ready.

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**Do you need Jesus to give you a second chance? In what way? |

**Activate**

If needed, take a moment to ask Jesus for another chance while you have time. Ask Him for forgiveness. And if forgiveness isn’t needed this moment, ask Him to help you grow stronger in your commitment to Him.

**Pray**

Eternal God, thank You for being as patient with me as You were with Peter. Thank You for Your forgiveness when I repent. Help me set an example for others of someone who lives ready for Your return. Help Your Church to be ready as well. I pray this in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 5: How Jesus Finished Strong**

**Engage**

Read today’s Scripture passage slower than normal and out loud. There’s something about hearing yourself read God’s Word that can help it sink in deeper.

Read [Philippians 2:1–11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Php2.1-11).

**Consider**

The apostle Paul wrote to Jesus Christ’s followers about the kind of conduct and attitude that reflects Jesus’ heart. Paul explained what Jesus gave up, what He did, and the results of His sacrifice.

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**How does having the right attitude help us finish strong? |

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**In what ways do you put others before yourself? |

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**How does this passage show Jesus finishing strong? |

**Reflect**

Imagine Jesus’ life to age thirty-three, when history estimates His death and resurrection. Now, imagine He quit. Not only doesn’t He finish strong, but He doesn’t finish at all.

|  |
| --- |
| **QUESTION**What would be the effect on this world? Your life? |

**Activate**

List a few attitudes that you want to work on to help you finish strong.

**Pray**

Lord Jesus, how can I thank You enough for not quitting, but instead, finishing strong! I ask Your Holy Spirit to give me the determination to finish strong. May my selflessness change my life and the lives of those around me. Amen.