

JUNKYARD WARS

LESSON THREE: AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE TEACHING:

Hebrews 11 lists a number of great examples of faith. Right after this “Hall of Faith,” we are reminded that we are to look to Jesus as we run the race of faith. Although the people listed are good examples, it is Jesus who we should emulate as He is the One who “wrote” the story.

Kids will learn that the Author and Finisher of our Faith wants them to imitate Him and become more like Him.

EACH LESSON CONTAINS:

DISCOVERING: FINDING OUT ABOUT THE NAME

- Guess the Junk
- Alex and Amanda, the Junkyard Champions
- Uncovering the Name
- Discovering the Verse

CONSTRUCTING: PUTTING TOGETHER WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT THE NAME

- Bible Story
- Junkyard Wars Story
- Junkyard Wars Competition

TESTING: APPLYING THE NAME

- Junkyard Lab
- Craft
- Game
- Bible Memory
- Express Yourself
- Snack
- Trading Cards
- Family Time

MAIN POINT: Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, is the example we should imitate each day.

BIBLE VERSE: Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1b-2 (NKJV)

BIBLE STORY: Running the Race, Hebrews 12:1-2

JUNKYARD WARS

17  11

AT IMAGINATION FACTORY

FINISH

ZONE 8



EVIDENCE

GUESS THE JUNK PP

Supplies: lampshade

Preparation: Place the lampshade in a box or in the junkyard.

Welcome to the Junkyard.

I am going to give you three clues about what our junk find of the day is. Let's see if you can guess what it is. (Either show the box or indicate that the junk item is somewhere among the other junk items.)

Clue #1: It is a cylinder (or _____) shape.

Clue #2: It is used in a home.

Clue #3: It is placed over a lightbulb.

Answer: Lampshade

ALEX AND AMANDA, THE JUNKYARD CHAMPIONS PP

Supplies: Bandages, arm sling, clipboard, pen, lampshade, flashlight

Preparation: Wrap bandages around Alex's head. Place his arm in a sling.

Amanda is holding the flashlight and shining it on the wall. She places the lampshade over it, nods and records information on the clipboard. She is deep in thought.

Alex enters the room. He stands for a moment waiting for Amanda to see him. Finally he clears his voice. She still does not notice him. He goes in front of her and jumps up and down. When that does not work, he starts moaning and holding his head. Amanda finally looks up and sees him.

Amanda: **Alex! What happened to you? Are you ok? Is something broken?** (She inspects his wounds.)



The Championship! On no. Are you too injured to compete? Will I have to get another partner? What are we going to do?

Alex: Oh don't worry about me, Amanda. I'm tough. I'll be fine in 3 weeks. Right in time for the championship. In fact, I might do a bit of training this afternoon. I've got to keep these muscles in good shape. (Shows off muscles on the good arm.)

Amanda: How did you get hurt? Were you in a car wreck? Bike wreck?

Alex: Well, that's a funny story. Maybe we'll save that story for another day.

Amanda: Alex. What did you do?

Alex: (Sighs.) You probably aren't going to like this. See my friend and I went out back last night. It was dark. No moon. No stars. Perfect night for training with a flashlight. I was following him around and then my flashlight went dead. So I couldn't see him but I tried to follow his footsteps. I guess my hearing isn't that good because I stepped off the side of a cliff. And well this. (Points to bandages.)

Amanda: A cliff? Where is there a cliff?

Alex: Ok, maybe not a cliff but definitely a high place. Well, ok, a sorta medium high place.

Amanda: (Shaking her head.) Why in the world would you go out into the pitch dark to train? I told you we need to use our heads in this competition. The Junkyard Championship is not going to be won by using our muscles. It is going to be won by using our brains.

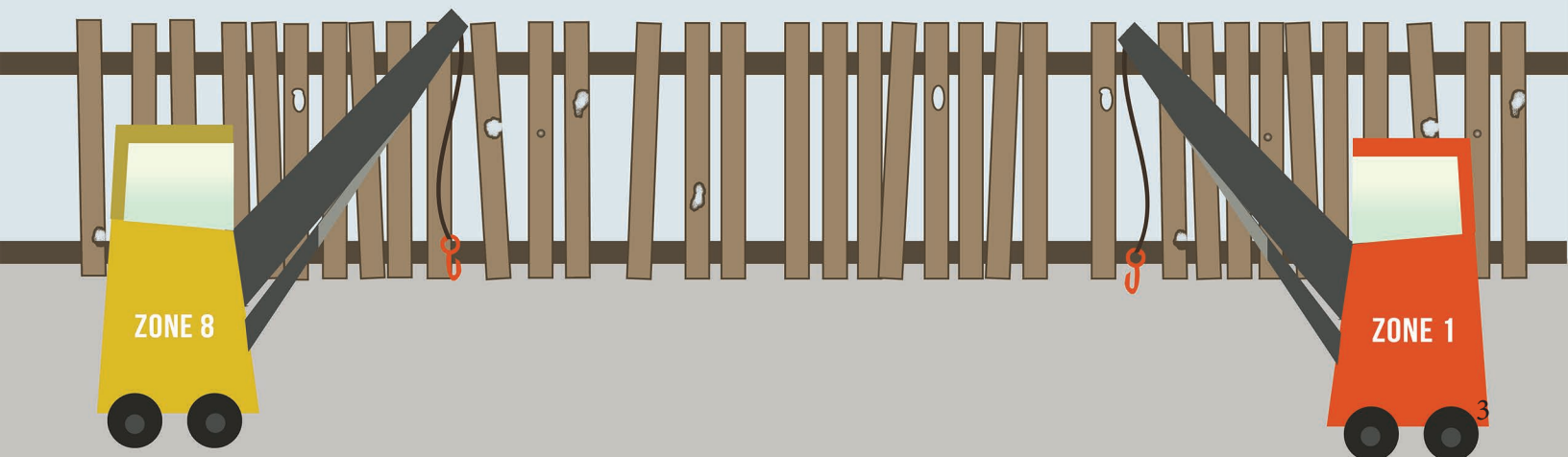
Alex: I think we need to train our muscles too. I was just imitating last year's champion. He took me out to train. How was I suppose to know my flashlight would go out?

Amanda: Is last year's champion competing this year?

Alex: Yeah.

Amanda: Interesting. So you were following him and he led you off the side of a medium high sorta cliff. Sounds to me like you had better be careful who are you following and imitating.

Alex: I guess so.



UNCOVERING THE NAME **PP**

Supplies: quill pen (long feather), sign “Author and Finisher of our Faith”

Each week our name of Jesus is going to have a symbol to help us remember the meaning of the name. We will look at a picture that has part of the symbol up close. More of the symbol will be shown a little at a time. See if you can guess what the symbol is.

(This can be done by having the kids yell out answers, dividing into two teams with a captain or choosing two kids to play in front of everyone)

The symbol is a quill pen. It is made from a feather and used to write. A person would use this kind of pen by dipping the end in a jar of ink and then writing with that end.

The quill pen symbolizes someone who is a writer or an author. Jesus is the author of our faith. He is the one who wrote the story by living it with His life. He also is the Finisher. He finished the story by dying on the cross for us. Because He is both the Author and the Finisher of our Faith, He should be the One who we follow and be like.

Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, is the example we should imitate each day.

Display: Place the symbol in the display. Make sure to print out the name “Author and Finisher of our Faith.”

DISCOVERING THE VERSE **PP**

Read Hebrews 12:1b-2 together:

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12: 1b-2 (NKJV)



Let's say the verse again with some motions to help us remember it.

Let us run the race (Pretend to run.)

That is set before us, (Put out hand in front of body palm side up.)

Looking (Put hand above eyes as if to look ahead.)

Unto Jesus (Point to sky.)

The author and finisher of our faith, (Pretend to write.)

Who for the joy (Put hand over heart.)

That was set before Him (Put out hand in front of body palm side up.)

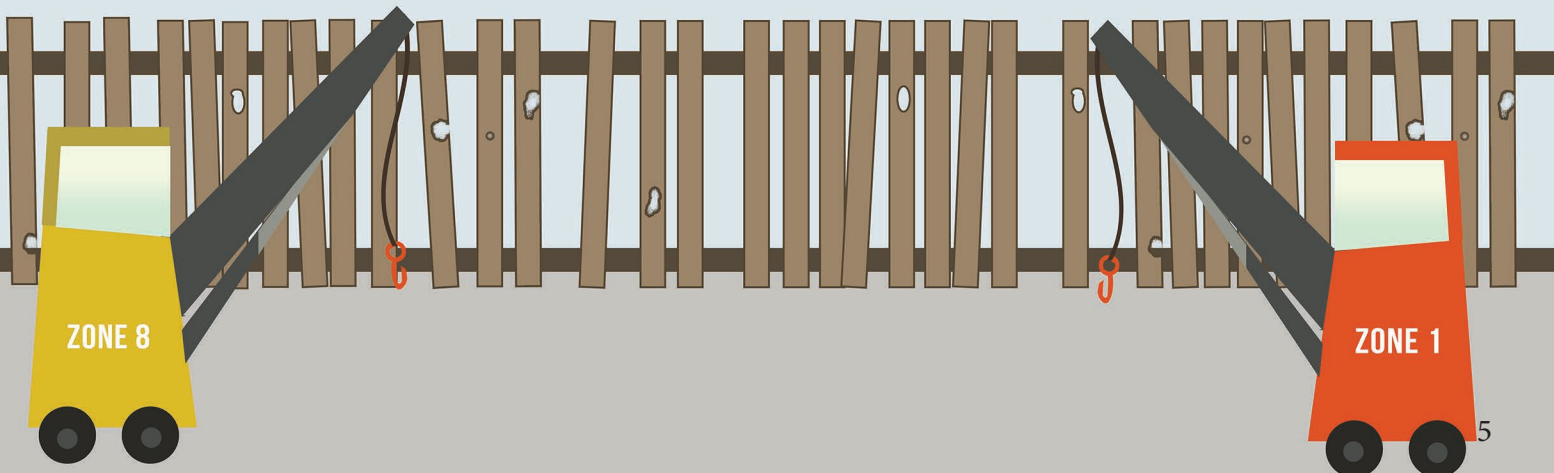
Endured the cross, (Trace a cross in the air with pointer finger.)

Despising the shame (Hide eyes.)

And has sat down (Pretend to sit.)

At the right hand (Hold out right hand.)

Of the throne of God. (Point to sky.)



CONSTRUCTING

BIBLE STORY PP

Running the Race, Hebrews 12:1-2

Supplies: relay race baton (short dowel rod, empty paper towel container)

I need four volunteers today. (Choose the volunteers.) **I am going to have you run a relay race. I will be your coach. There are some thing that you need to remember as you run this race:**

1. You need to not look behind you.
2. You need to keep your eyes on the finish line.
3. You need to pay attention to me at the finish line.
4. When you finish your part of the race, you need to cheer on the other runners.

You will run a race around the room. (Explain the round path they should take. Ideally it will be around the other kids.) **When you come toward the finish line, you should hold out the baton so the next person can take it.**

Are you ready? First runner get into position. (Give the baton to the runner.) **Get ready. Set. Go.**

Encourage the kids to cheer on the runners. Stay at the finish line encouraging each one to cross the finish line. When all the runners have passed across the line have everyone celebrate by cheering, high fiving and clapping.

Did you know that in the Bible there is a race like this one? In fact, in Hebrews 12 (including our memory verse) it is talked about. Let's read about this race:

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
Hebrews 12: 1-2



Who do you think the great cloud of witnesses are? Those are the people who have run the race before us. They are cheering us on. Right before Hebrews 12, we find a list of some of those people in Hebrews 11: Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Rahab are just a few on that list.

What does it mean to lay aside every weight? This could be anything that slows us down. It might be pride and arrogance-thinking that we are better than others. When we do that, we cannot focus on Jesus. We are only focusing on ourselves.

What does it mean “the sin which so easily ensnares us?” Think about if you were running a race with a long robe that got ensnarled in your legs. It would be hard to run. Sin can do the same thing. When we keep losing our temper and saying mean things in anger, it hurts the race we are in. Or when we have a problem with lying or cheating, it slows us way down in our race. We are not imitating Jesus when we let things like this control us.

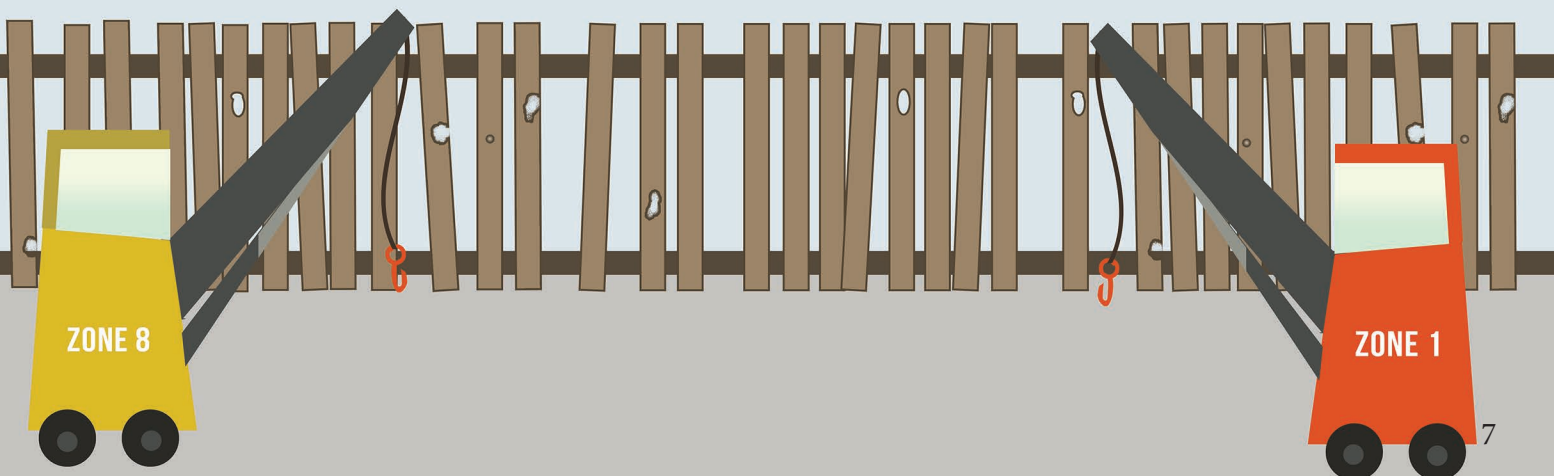
We are to run with endurance the race. The race talked about in Hebrews was a long race. Something like a marathon where one would have to train and there was some pain involved. Do you know how long a marathon is? 26 miles. It is not a short race. It is a race where one must stay focused to finish.

Who are we to look to while we are racing? Jesus. He is like the coach. Even though the great crowd of witnesses might be encouraging us, we need to keep our focus on Jesus. We should not look behind us because that might cause us to stumble. We just keep looking forward toward Jesus.

Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our Faith. He is the one who wrote the story by living it with his own life. He was willing to endure the pain of the cross for us. Now He is at the right hand of God.

Because He is the one who wrote the story we should be imitating Him. We can be inspired by stories of great people in the Bible like Noah who built the ark or Moses who led the Israelites out of Egypt or Daniel who stood up to a king and was thrown in the lion’s den. These are great stories that encourage us but they were just men. Jesus is also God. He is the One who we should be like.

Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, is the example we should imitate each day.



PRAYER **PP**

Ask Jesus to help the kids become more like Him. Ask Him to help them keep their focus on Him and not on things that would slow them down in their race.

JUNKYARD WARS STORY **PP**

Supplies: Masking tape, two blindfolds

Preparation: Using the masking tape, make two identical mazes large enough for a person to walk through on the floor.

There is a story about a man that was out one night in a field. He was with a flock of sheep. A fire was built to warm himself. In the background the sound of coyotes could be heard. It was so dark that the man could not see the sheep but knew that they were scared. As he looked around him, he noticed little eyes all around him. However, they were not looking at him. They were looking into the light of the fire. He realized that the eyes he was seeing were those of the sheep. Instead of looking out into the dark at the thing that was terrifying them, they were looking toward the light.

The sheep could teach us a valuable lesson. When we are scared, instead of looking at the thing that scares us and becoming paralyzed with fear, we should keep our eyes on Jesus, the light.

What are some things that make kids afraid? (Give kids a chance to answer.) **How could you keep looking to Jesus when you are afraid of these things?** (Give some specific examples.)

In the race ahead of us, there will be times when we are fearful. That is normal. We can choose during those times to keep looking to Jesus knowing that He is cheering for us and encouraging us.

I will need two volunteers who do not care if they are blindfolded. I also need two other volunteers who are good at giving directions.



(Blindfold the first two volunteers and place them at the beginning of each maze) **We are going to have a race to see who can get through the maze first. If you step outside of the maze, you will be guided back to the beginning to start over. Do you think you can do this?** (The kids will probably say something about not being able to see.) **We will give you someone to help you on your journey. They will coach you along using only their voice. You must listen closely and focus on their voice so you will know which way to go to finish the race.** (Have the kids cheer for them as they individually finish their races.)

Part of keeping our eyes on Jesus is to listen to Him. We need to know what He is saying to us. We can hear Him through reading our Bibles and through praying. He speaks to us inside us, giving us peace when things are hard. He helps us to know when something is not the right thing to do. He guides us when we listen to Him.

Let's say our Bible verse together: **PP**

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12: 1b-2 (NKJV)

JUNKYARD WARS COMPETITION **PP**

Supplies: flashlights, drinking straws, masking tape, index cards

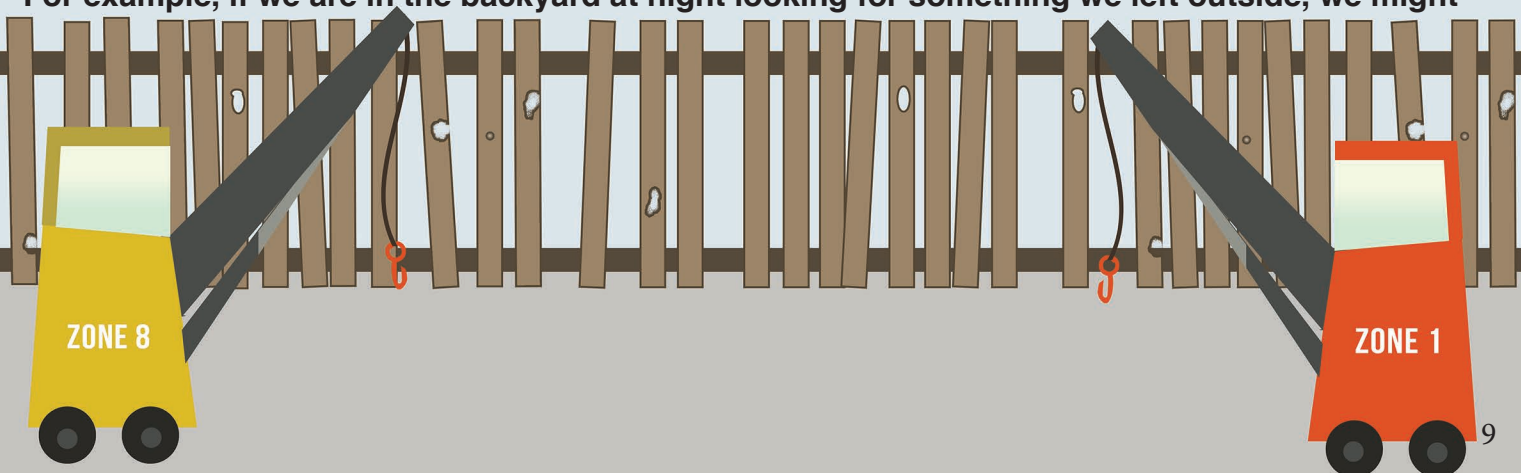
Divide the kids into small groups. Give each group the following supplies:

1. flashlight
2. 10 drinking straws
3. 24 inches masking tape
4. 3 index cards

You must work together to make a device that will fit on the end of your flashlight. This device will be similar to a lampshade except it will make the light go in a different direction than straight ahead. The group who can make the most interesting light on a wall without going in a straight direction from the flashlight will win. You have _____ minutes to make this device.

When the time is completed, turn off the lights and have each group shine their light on the wall. Declare a winner.

Whenever we are in a dark place, we need a flashlight or other type of light to shine the way. For example, if we are in the backyard at night looking for something we left outside, we might



need a flashlight especially if it is a cloudy, dark night. The light will help us see which way we should go. We keep our eyes on the lighted area.

Because Jesus is the author of our faith, He is the one we should keep our eyes on. He is the light that helps us know which way to go. Other people can be good examples for us, however, Jesus is the one we should want to become like. As we keep our eyes on Him, focusing on the way He loves others, we will become more like Him.

Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, is the example we should imitate each day.



TESTING

JUNKYARD LAB

Supplies: flashlights, paper, scissors, sharpened pencils, rubber band

Cut out a circle from the paper about one inch wider than the end of the flashlight. Cut out a design or poke holes in the paper using the pencil. Place on the end of the flashlight and secure with a rubber band. Turn the flashlight on and shine on a wall.

Experiment using different shapes and holes to see what happens to the light.

Review how we should focus on the Author and Finisher of our Faith just like we would focus on the light in a dark place.

CRAFT: EYE FINGER PUPPETS

Supplies: Styrofoam balls or egg carton cups, pipe cleaners, wiggle eyes, cardstock, scissors

Place the pipe cleaner into the bottom of the ball. Make an arch that will go over the finger. Place the other end of the pipe cleaner into the bottom of the other ball. The two balls should fit on either side of the finger with the pipe cleaner holding them in place over the finger.

Cut out eyelashes from cardstock and attach to the top of the ball. Glue eyes to the middle of the balls.

Review with the kids why it is important to keep their eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of their Faith.

GAMES: SIMON SAYS

Play the classic game of Simon Says. One person stands at the front and does different motions calling them out to



the group. If they say “Simon says _____,” everyone must do the motion they call out such as rub your tummy, hop on one foot, etc. If the person neglects to say “Simon” but just the action, the kids should not copy the person. Anyone caught doing an action when Simon has not “said” sits down. The last person to sit down wins.

Remind the kids that we want to make sure we are imitating the right person. Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, is the One we should imitate.

BIBLE MEMORY: POST IT RACE

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12: 1b-2 (NKJV)

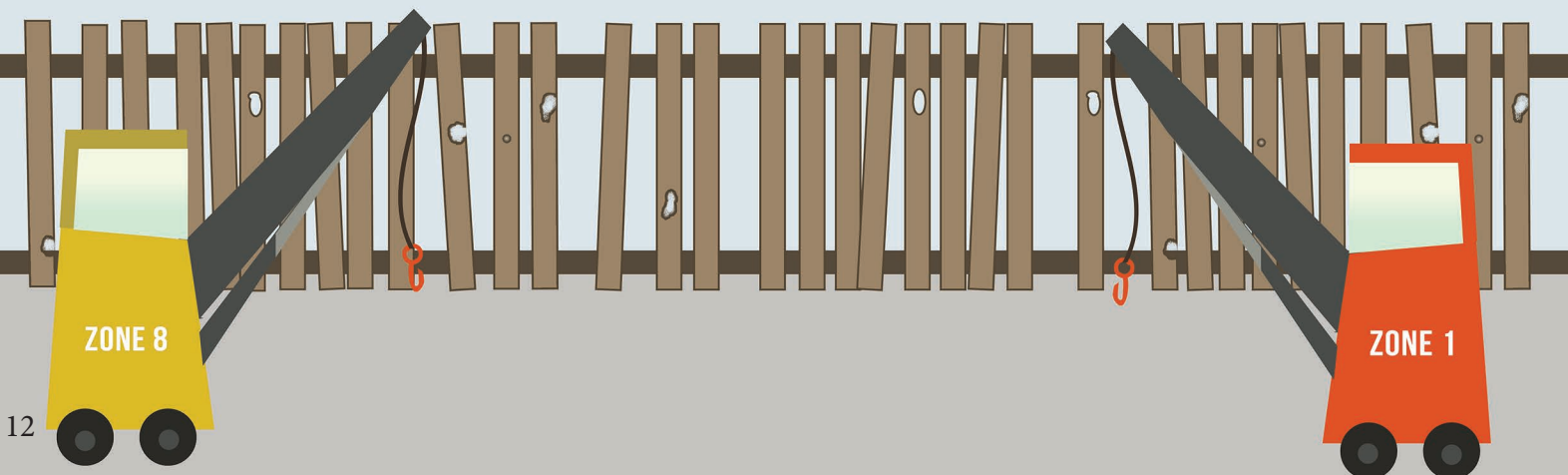
Supplies: post it notes, marker

Divide the kids into teams of 6-8. Have each team write the verse one word at a time on post it notes. When finished they should place the notes on a wall in random order. Have the teams move to a different team’s notes and race to put the notes in order.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Supplies: Copy of questions for each small group

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our Faith?
2. Explain how living a life of faith is like a race.
3. What do you find can weigh you down in the race?
4. Who is cheering for us as we run the race?
5. Who should we be imitating in our race?
6. What are some ways that we imitate Jesus and become more like Him? Do we do this by trying harder on our own? Or do we do this by asking Him to make us more like Him and listening to Him?



SNACK: PRETZEL QUILL

Supplies: large rod pretzels, frosting, plain sugar cookies, plate

Place a cookie on the plate. Dip the rod pretzel (quill) into the frosting until the end has a glob on it. Write the word “FAITH” on the cookie with the frosting. The “quill” may have to be dipped into the “ink” a few times.

Review why the quill is the symbol for Author and Finisher of our Faith.

TRADING CARDS

Supplies: printed card for each child, markers or crayons (optional)

Name: Author and Finisher of Our Faith

Symbol: Quill Pen

Verse: Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12: 1b-2 (NKJV)

Give each child the card. If using the coloring cards, use markers or crayons to decorate them. Go over the verse together and review the symbol.



SUPPLY LIST

GUESS THE JUNK: ☐Lampshade

ALEX AND AMANDA: ☐Bandages ☐Arm sling ☐Clipboard ☐Pen ☐Lampshade ☐Flashlight

UNCOVERING THE NAME: ☐Quill ☐Sign “Author and Finisher of our Faith”

BIBLE STORY: ☐Relay race baton

JUNK WARS STORY: ☐Masking tape ☐Two blindfolds

JUNK WARS COMPETITION: ☐Index cards ☐Masking tape ☐Drinking Straws ☐Flashlights

JUNKYARD LAB: ☐Flashlights ☐Paper ☐Scissors ☐Sharpened Pencils ☐Rubber bands

CRAFT: ☐Cardstock ☐Styrofoam balls or egg carton cups ☐Pipe cleaners ☐Wiggle eyes ☐Scissors

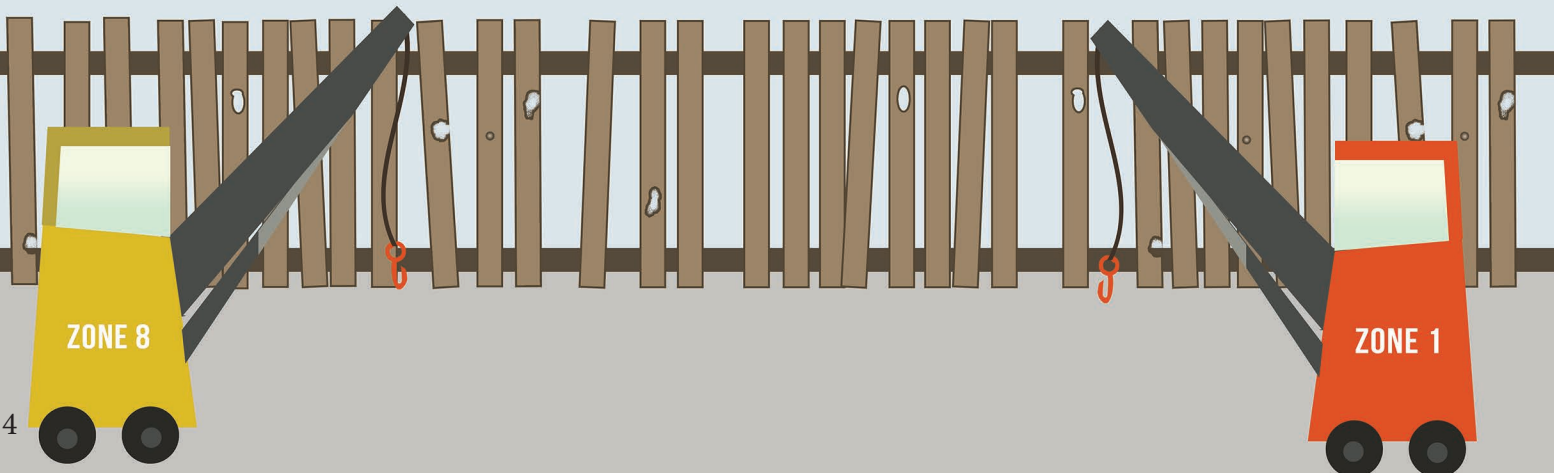
GAME: ☐None

BIBLE MEMORY: ☐Post it notes ☐Marker

EXPRESS YOURSELF: ☐Copy of questions for each small group

SNACK: ☐Large rod pretzels ☐Frosting ☐Plain sugar cookies ☐Plates

TRADING CARDS: ☐Printed card for each child ☐Markers or crayons (optional)



JUNKYARD WARS

MAIN POINT: Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, is the example we should imitate each day.

BIBLE VERSE: Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12: 1b-2 (NKJV)

BIBLE STORY: Running the Race, Hebrews 12: 1-2

FAMILY DISCUSSION:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our Faith?
2. How should we imitate Jesus?
3. Why does the race require endurance (to keep on trying even when it is hard)?

FAMILY IMAGINATIVE THINKING:

How does your family imitate Jesus? What are some ways that you could do better in imitating Him? Think of one specific way. Ask Him to help you and then make a plan to work on this area. In a week meet together to talk about how you are doing.

FAMILY GAME:

Turn off all the lights in the house. One person has a flashlight and turns it on and off every so often. Everyone tries to find the person with the flashlight. Each person stays with the family member with the flashlight until all members are together.

**AUTHOR AND FINISHER
OF OUR FAITH**



JUNKYARD WARS

17  11

AT IMAGINATION FACTORY

FINISH

ZONE 8



EXPRESS YOURSELF

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our Faith?
2. Explain how living a life of faith is like a race.
3. What do you find can weigh you down in the race?
4. Who is cheering for us as we run the race?
5. Who should we be imitating in our race?
6. What are some ways that we imitate Jesus and become more like Him?
Do we do this by trying harder on our own? Or do we do this by asking Him to make us more like Him and listening to Him?

**FINISHER OF OUR FAITH
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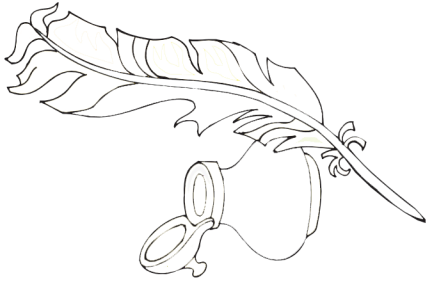
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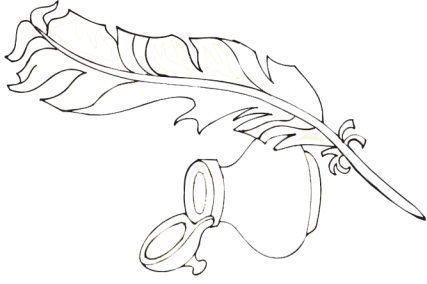
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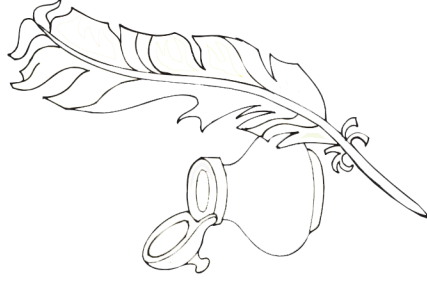
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