

### **Background Information**

Rather than questioning their faith when they are persecuted, the readers are encouraged to embrace their suffering, as a gracious opportunity to learn more about the heart of God. The author exhorts the reader to put their faith in the Word and keep running the race! God's goal for His children is maturity. The successful runner needs endurance to finish the race. He must exercise discipline and submit to training if he is going to cross the finish line.

The key to endurance is fixing our eyes trustingly on Jesus instead of our own circumstances. As we consider His example, we can see that He has everything we need to run our race; strength, power, insight and guidance. With every trial we face, God is fashioning us into a holy people, set apart for His good purposes.

As a loving Father, God chastens those who are His. We need never fear the chastening of the Lord; it is controlled by a loving heart.

## LOOKING FOR GOLD - WHAT DOES IT SAY?



The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

*Setting the scene:* You may want to begin your reading with Pr. 3:11-12, Ps 69 with Matt. 10:24-26, 1 Cor. 6:12-20

### Hebrews 12:1-2

12 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, 2 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.



### Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

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### Hebrews 12:3-11

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. 5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,  
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;  
6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens,  
And scourges every son whom He receives."

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.



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## BOILING IT DOWN – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



What **lesson** can I draw from my observations?

State each lesson in a simple sentence (aim for 10 words or less).

Hebrews 12:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

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Hebrews 12:3-11 \_\_\_\_\_

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Hebrews 12:12-17 \_\_\_\_\_

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## REFINED AS GOLD - HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

How should it change me? Ask yourself, "What **course of action** do I need to take to apply each lesson?" (aim for 10 words or less)

Hebrews 12:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

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Hebrews 12:3-11 \_\_\_\_\_

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Hebrews 12:12-17 \_\_\_\_\_

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**CHALLENGE:** Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.

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### STORING UP YOUR TREASURE . . .

**FOR DISCUSSION:**

What is the cloud of witnesses speaking of?

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How does *considering Jesus* help us keep from becoming weary or discouraged? v.3 &4

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What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

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**CHECKING FOR CLARITY:** See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Hebrews 12:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 12:3-11 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 12:12-17 \_\_\_\_\_

**BARS OF GOLD:** State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

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**FLEX YOUR MUSCLES:** Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?

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## HIDE YOUR TREASURE IN YOUR HEART

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.

Hebrews 12:1-2

### Radiating His Truth . . .

We cry too often to be delivered from the punishment, instead of the sin that lies behind it. We are anxious to escape from the things that cause us pain rather than from the things that cause God pain. G. Campbell Morgan

