

Perseverance

“It is finished”

Foundation

Bible passage : Hebrews 12.2, Matthew 26.36-44 & John 19.30

The previous unit drew on Hebrews 12.1 and the idea of running with perseverance. Many of the children will know what it is like to be involved in a long race, walk or match of some sort and the relief of reaching finishing line or final whistle. Perseverance, or endurance, is about keeping going to the finish. Having said we should run the race with perseverance verse 2 tells us how to do that:

*“**looking to Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him **endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

“looking to Jesus”

On the evening before his crucifixion Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He knew that what lay ahead was not simply His own death but that He would bear our sins. He prayed that the cup, meaning the cup of suffering, might pass but also submitted to the will of God. In the garden Luke tells us that Jesus was in agony, and His sweat became like great drops of blood (Lk 22.44). The following day Jesus was mocked by those He came to save and for six hours hung dying on the



cross. As Hebrews tells us, He “endured the cross, despising the shame”.

People running a marathon will sometimes speak about the pain they went through. They might even say it was “excruciating” but this is a word which derives from the pain of crucifixion.

Having endured the cross and despised the shame Jesus called out “it is finished”. It was not that His life was ending but His great saving work was complete - He had run the race with perseverance to the end.

In Hebrews 12.2 we therefore see what it means to be “inspired by Christ”. People can look to Jesus, seeing and learning from His example. But more than that, if people trust in Jesus, then they run the race looking to He who has now completed the race and His work finished is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Father,
forgive
them, for
they know**

**not what they do. Truly, I say to
you, today you will be with me
in paradise. Woman, behold,
your son! - Behold, your mother!**

**My God, my
God, why
have you
forsaken me?
I thirst.
It is finished.
Father, into
your hands
I commit
my spirit!**



Looking to Jesus helps us to see how to persevere and that He has now finished the race and is seated in glory.