



Introduction:

- Please turn in your Bibles to Hebrews 12:1-2.
- Summer is finally here, which means kids and teachers are on summer break, families are planning vacations, and we're counting down to the 2016 Summer Olympic Games.
- There's a reason why we're talking about running in the Olympic Games. It's the very imagery that's the setting for the passage we're looking at this morning.
- In Hebrews 12, we find some practical advice that will help us *Go for the Gold* and *Run the Race to a Faithful Finish*.

1. _____ the _____ (12:1)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...

- *To whom are you passing the baton of faith?*

2. _____ the _____ (12:1)

...let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely... (ESV)
...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles... (NIV)

A. Throw off _____ that _____

- *What's weighing you down and slowing your speed?*

B. Throw off the _____ that so easily _____

- *What's your Achilles heel? What sin has you sidelined?*

3. _____ for _____ (12:1-2)

...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.

Conclusion:

- When we think about the race of life, we have to think marathon, not sprint.
- We're not running alone: we have a cloud of witnesses counting on us, cheering us on and the next runners waiting for us to pass the baton of faith.
- If we're going to go for the gold and reach a faithful finish, we have to throw off anything that will slow us down or sideline us.