

Finish Strong

Burn the Ships (week 1)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

We will finish strong when we burn the ships.

Key Scriptures

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 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. Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction." Genesis 41:51-52 ESV

That night the Lord said to him, "Take your father's bull, and the second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it and build an altar to the Lord your God on the top of the stronghold here, with stones laid in due order. Then take the second bull and offer it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah that you shall cut down." Judges 6:25-26 ESV

Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran. Genesis 11:31-32 ESV

What does it look like to burn the ships?

1. Make peace with the past.
2. Reach the point of no return.
3. Keep your eyes on the prize.

Start talking.

- Have you ever seen someone start strong but flame out, settling for less than God's best?
- Are you a planner? Or are you the "one more thing" person?

Start thinking.

- What is the difference between the weight that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles? Why does the author differentiate between these two?
- How does keeping your eyes on the prize (Jesus) make a practical difference in burning the ships?
- What is the biggest key you've found in overcoming our desire for comfort and safety, so that we can finish strong in fulfilling God's call on our lives?

Start sharing.

- Of the three Old Testament heroes mentioned (Joseph, Gideon, and Abraham), who do you identify most with and why?
- Where do you struggle with making peace with your past?
- Have you ever seen how reaching the point of no return is beneficial in breaking free from sin or addiction or bondage?

Start doing.

- Which hero of the faith in Hebrews 11 would you like to examine more in-depth this week?
- In what area of your life do you doubt God's best for you? What would it look like to rewrite that narrative in your mind?
- Where can you go tangible, public, and large this week?

Closing prayer.

Father, I thank you for the example of our champion Jesus, who shows us how to finish the race that God has given us. Help us to burn these ships in our lives as we follow Jesus's example. If there are issues in my past holding me back, please reveal them to me. Show me what it looks like to take bold, practical steps in following you. And thank you for loving me through it all.