

# CAMP VENTURE

Hey Pals,

**Do you like to race for a prize? What is the most amazing prize you can imagine?** (Campers respond.) **Following Jesus is like being in a race in which every finisher receives the best prize they could ever imagine! To understand Paul's words to the Philippians let's run a race right now.** Reach into the mailbag and take out the supplies for the finish line.

**Directions:**

1. Choose two volunteers to hold up the ends of the finish line at one end of the play area.
2. Choose two more volunteers to be runners who stand at the opposite end of the play area.
3. The first runner keeps his or her eyes on the finish line.
4. The second runner faces the finish line, but his or her face keeps turning to looking behind.
5. On your signal, have both runners run the race.

**What happened to the two runners in this race?** (The first runner should have run the race more quickly and with less stumbling because of his or her focus.) **Just as we must keep our eyes on the finish line in a race so we don't fall or wander off track, we must keep our eyes on Jesus as we follow Him. Instead of looking back at our mistakes or focusing on things we think are more important than Jesus, Paul tells the Philippians to forget the past and strain toward the prize in heaven.**

Reach into the mailbag and give campers the slips of paper and pencils. **Draw or write down something wrong you have done or something you sometimes treat as more important than Jesus. As your counselor passes behind you with a trash bag, crumple up your paper and toss it over your shoulder into the bag. After you toss it behind you, leave it behind and focus on Jesus instead.**

**The life of a believer is like an exciting race toward heaven. The letter to the Hebrews says God has already marked out a race for each one of us. Isn't that amazing? We don't need to have a strong body or be a fast runner to be in this race. The letter says that in this race, we just need to "fix our eyes on Jesus." That means just keep our hearts and minds focused on Him and what He wants us to do.**

**Close your eyes and picture your life as a race. During this race, you are focusing on Jesus and doing what He wants you to do. Jesus is at the finish line cheering for you. The prize is being with Him in heaven. Now, open your eyes.**

**Believe and Be Focused!**  
Your Pen Pal

