



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9  
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts – Revelation  
Unit 5, Lesson 27

## Letters About Perseverance

Lesson Aim: To learn that focusing on Christ helps us to persevere.

### THE WELCOME

**MEET & GREET:** What is a prize you would like to win?

**GAME:** Race to the Cross

### THE WORSHIP THE SPIRIT WHO GUIDES US

Read Worship Scripture: Matthew 6:31-33

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform the Mail Call script or read storybook.

### THE WORD LETTERS ABOUT PERSEVERANCE

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: God led Paul to write about peace of mind.

**Today, we have New Testament letters to encourage perseverance in following Jesus. That means to never give up. It is wonderful to follow Jesus, but it is not always easy. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews knew believers would need encouragement to keep following Jesus. The letter explains that following Jesus is similar to finishing a race. Paul wrote about that same race in his letter to the Philippians. Point to Philippi. Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 3:12-16, 20-21. Find It First. Highlight Key Verse: Hebrews 12:2. Pray. Read.**

### THE WAY FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS

**What is the most amazing prize you can imagine? Following Jesus is like being in an exciting life-long race toward heaven where every finisher receives the best prize he or she could imagine! The prize is being with Jesus forever! To understand Paul's words to the Philippians, let's run a race right now. Run the race.**

**What happened to the two runners? Just as we must keep our eyes on the finish line in a race so we don't stumble or wander off track, we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. What do you think it means to "fix our eyes on Jesus"? (Focus on doing things His way, on loving Him**

and everyone He has made.) **Instead of looking back at our mistakes or focusing on less important things, Paul tells the Philippians to forget the past and strain toward the prize in heaven.**

Give children paper and pencils. **Draw or write down something wrong you have done or something you sometimes treat as more important than Jesus. As I pass behind you with a trash bag, crumple up your paper and toss it over your shoulder into the bag. Then, leave it behind and focus on Jesus instead.**

**If life is like a race, Jesus had a very hard race to run on earth in order to save the world! Knowing that Jesus made it through hard times can give us courage and strength so that we do not give up, or become too tired and discouraged. He helps us persevere!**

### **CHRIST CONNECTION:**

**Knowing what the Bible says about who Jesus is and what He has done helps us know how to follow Him. Nearly 1,500 years before the letter to the Hebrews, Moses taught about focusing on God's Word, the Bible. In Bible times, some people wore a small scroll of Bible verses on a headband to help them remember to focus on God's Word. As you read this, think about your favorite way to learn God's Word. Reveal Deuteronomy 11:18-19. Find It First. Highlight. Read.**

**Close your eyes and picture yourself in a life-long race where you are keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus. Picture Jesus standing at the finish line cheering for you. The prize is being with Him in heaven. Before you open your eyes, let's pray Jesus will help you keep your eyes fixed on Him every day. Lead children in prayer.**

**THE GOLDEN BOWL:** Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

### **FINAL FIVE MINUTES:**

- **TREASURE TREAT:** New Testament Postcard about perseverance, stamp or sticker of eyes (or glasses or binoculars)
- **DAILY WAY CHALLENGE**
- **OFFERING OF ART:** Your favorite thing about today and something special about the letters from the New Testament you just learned
- **PRAYER REQUESTS**
- **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG**

### **GOT TIME?**

**SNACK:** Focus Food Snack

**GAMES:** Break Free!, New Testament Line

**CRAFT:** Care Package—Gold Medal Followers

**DISCUSSION:** More Letters About Perseverance

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES:** Ask, Seek, Knock!; Race to Repeat

**BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW**