

PROPER 15

YEAR C

Fix your eyes on Jesus





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Sunday between August 14 and August 20



Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

- 1. Hebrews 11 lists people of faith who encourage us by the way they have trusted God. Who or what encourages you in your faith?
- 2. Share how you can encourage other Christians.



BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week. Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.

S Luke 12:49-56	Jesus the cause of division
M Isaiah 5: 1-7	Song about the Lord's vineyard
T Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2	God's discipline proves his love
W Acts 14:1-7	Division at Iconium
T 1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Paul writes about division
F Hebrews 10:23-28,35-38	Persevere in the Lord
S Psalm 82	Faithfully proclaim my every word

VERSE OF THE WEEK

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

HEBREWS 12:2A





CREATIVE RESPONSE

Hebrews 12:1 encourages us to "get rid of everything that slows us down" from following Jesus.

Place a stone or rock on your table to symbolise things in your lives that keep you from living and acting the way Jesus wants you to (e.g. being rude or nasty to each other, lying about something we did or did not do, taking something that doesn't belong to us, not helping others).

Pass the rock around, with each person sharing something they would like to say sorry to God for. When each person has had a turn, say the following prayer.

Dear Jesus, please forgive us for those times when we don't follow you. Help us to fight against sin and to keep our eyes on you. Amen.

Then throw the rock away to symbolise God's removal of our sins through Christ.



ACTION RESPONSE

Hebrews 12: 1 speaks of Christians being surrounded by "a great cloud of witnesses." In your home devotion times this week, consider those people who have been faith witnesses to members of your household.

Write their names down on pieces of white card and cut into cloud shapes. Make a mobile (you could use a coat hanger as a frame) to hang in your home as a reminder of these people. Thank God for them in your home prayer times.



MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord, with food you feed us and with love you lead us.
Thank you for giving all we need for living.
Amen.



Lord Jesus, please help us to trust in you when times are hard. Keep us from falling away from you. Amen.



BLESSING

May the Holy Spirit keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.