

June 26-30, 2017

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5 MINUTES / 5 DAYS

Starting Line

MONDAY Start Your Engines

Jn. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 5:17; Phil. 1:6

Have you ever been in a race? What was the point of the race? I believe most of us would say the point of any race is to win. The Christian life has been described as a race. We get into the race the moment we give our lives to Jesus. John 3:16 tells us that God loves the world! That's you, that's me, that's your neighbor, that's your co-worker, and, yes, that's your extended family. Everyone matters to Jesus. The moment we come to Jesus, we become a new creation. We are not the same anymore. God works in us to make us more and more like Jesus.

Read the passages and ask God to continue the work He is doing in your life.

TUESDAY Green Flag

Gen. 1:1; Gen. 1:27; Deut. 6:4-5

Racing cars may seem boring, but there is so much going on that can make a huge difference in winning or losing. The same can be said of the Christian life. How are we supposed to know someone who we can't see or doesn't talk back to us? I think there is something in us that wants to know that the world isn't random—that it's designed to work in a certain way. It all begins with creation. God is letting us know it wasn't by accident. He designed humanity. When we begin to see the evidence of His design all around us, He becomes less invisible.

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and realize that the most important thing we were designed to do is to love God!

Glorifying God by producing more maturing followers of Jesus.

WEDNESDAY Pit Stop

Gen. 1:27; Matt. 22:37-39; Ps. 36:5, 86:15

Have you ever been amazed at how many stars there are in the sky or how big the universe is? Have you ever thought that, out of all the billions of people in the world, am I really worth God's time and attention? Sometimes in the busyness of life, we can get caught up in caring what others may think of us. It becomes a problem when that determines what we think about ourselves. How does God see us? What does He think about us? He loves us so much He sent His very best! In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus says that we should love ourselves. This means not elevating ourselves over another, but believing that we matter to God!

Know that God loves you and that YOU MATTER!

THURSDAY Pit Crew

Gen. 2:18; Matt. 22:37-40

Misunderstandings with friends are no fun! I've experienced that more than I care to admit. Maybe you have too. When it comes to relationships, there is potential for misunderstanding and hurt feelings. When this happens, we typically respond in a couple ways: 1) We say we don't care what others think; or 2) We live in fear. In God's eyes, loving Him and loving people are connected. God loves us all. He wants the world to know He loves them and wants to use us to do so!

Make a list of 5 people to whom you will show God's love in the next 7 days.

FRIDAY Checkered Flag

2 Tim. 4:7; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; 10:31; Jn. 10:10

How do you know when a car race is over? They wave a checkered flag and the first car to drive past the checkered flag wins. The Christian life, as we stated earlier this week, is like a race. The point of life is to love God and glorify Him in everything we do. The life God has intended for us is a life that's beyond our wildest dreams. May we all one day look back on our life and say as the Apostle Paul did: *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have remained faithful.*

*May we commit from this day forward to live the life God wants us to live.
May we find that life in His Word.*