

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK



THEME DAYS



"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 12:1-3)

SETTING ASIDE HINDRANCES

THEME

Identifying and overcoming hindrances to our faith in Christ

SCRIPTURE

"Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely" (Heb. 12:1).



DEVOTION

In this verse, we are encouraged to recognize and remove anything that obstructs our relationship with God. Sin, distractions and doubt are all weights that we must lay aside. By confessing our sins, seeking God's guidance, and remaining rooted in His Word, we become better equipped to grow in faith and live as His disciples.

KEY POINTS

- **Sin:** Sin separates us from God, but we are reconciled through Christ's forgiveness.
- **Fear:** Trusting in God's promises allows us to overcome fear.
- **Distractions:** Staying focused on God's Word helps us avoid worldly distractions.
- **Pride:** Relying on God's strength rather than our own encourages humility.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the faith You have given us. Help us to recognize and lay aside all that hinders us from following You faithfully. Guide us as we seek to live according to Your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ACTIVITIES

- **Morning devotion:** Read Hebrews 12:1 and discuss examples of hindrances to faith.
- **Classroom:** Students list and discuss distractions to their faith and ways to resist them.
- **Chapel:** Lead a service focused on removing sin and obstacles through God's grace.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Not What These Hands Have Done" (LSB 567) – This hymn emphasizes the work of Christ in removing the guilt of sin, reminding us that only He can cleanse us.

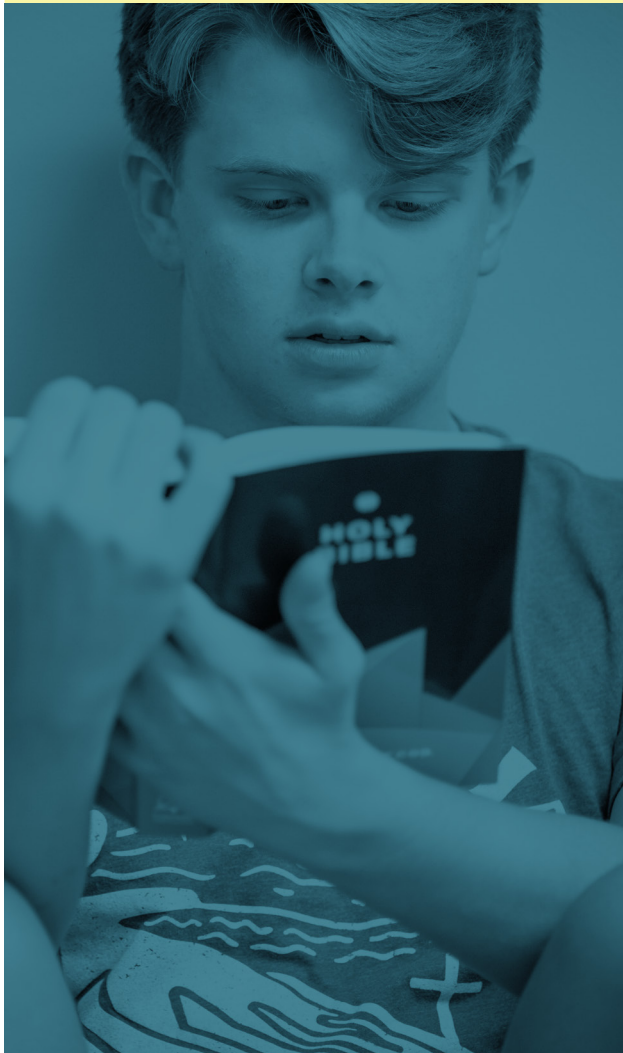
FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS

THEME

Maintaining Jesus as the focal point of our lives

SCRIPTURE

"Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith" (Heb. 12:2).



DEVOTION

Jesus is our Savior, our example and the source of our strength. By focusing on Him, we are reminded of His sacrifice, His love and His teachings. In all aspects of life, we are called to follow Christ, who has completed our faith and remains with us to guide and sustain us.

KEY POINTS

- **Jesus as guide:** Jesus shows us the path of righteousness and truth.
- **Jesus as strength:** Through Christ, we are empowered to overcome life's challenges.
- **Jesus as hope:** Staying focused on God's Word helps us avoid worldly distractions.
- **Jesus as example:** We learn from His life how to love, serve and trust in God.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help us keep You at the center of our lives. May we look to You for guidance and strength in all things, remembering Your love and sacrifice for us. Amen.

ACTIVITIES

- **Morning devotion:** • Morning devotion: Read Hebrews 12:2, focusing on Jesus as the founder and perfecter of our faith.
- **Classroom:** Create visual representations of Jesus and discuss ways to keep Him central.
- **Chapel:** Hold a worship service celebrating Jesus' role as our Savior and Redeemer.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Jesus, Lead Thou On" (LSB 718) –

This hymn expresses our trust in Jesus to lead and guide us through all circumstances as we keep our eyes fixed on Him.

ENDURING THE CROSS

THEME

Reflecting on Christ's suffering and sacrifice for our salvation

SCRIPTURE

"Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame" (Heb. 12:2).



DEVOTION

The cross is the heart of our faith. It reminds us of Jesus' suffering and His victory over sin and death. Jesus bore the cross for our sake, enduring pain and shame so that we could have eternal life. In our own lives, we are encouraged to carry our crosses by faithfully enduring trials, trusting in Christ's redemptive work.

KEY POINTS

- **Salvation:** Through the cross, Jesus redeemed us from sin.
- **Hope:** The cross represents both the suffering of Christ and the hope of resurrection.
- **Love:** Jesus' sacrifice is the ultimate act of God's love for humanity.
- **Transformation:** Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are made new.

PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, who endured the cross for our salvation. Help us to remember and honor His sacrifice in our daily lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ACTIVITIES

- **Morning devotion:** Read Hebrews 12:2 and discuss the significance of the cross..
- **Classroom:** Construct a timeline of events in Jesus' life leading to the cross.
- **Chapel:** Host a service centered on the significance of the crucifixion and resurrection.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory" (LSB 427) –

This hymn helps us to reflect on the significance of the cross and the glory of Christ's sacrifice for us.

THE JOY SET BEFORE US

THEME

Celebrating the joy and hope we have in Jesus Christ

SCRIPTURE

"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" (Heb. 12:2).



DEVOTION

Jesus faced the cross with joy because He knew the outcome — eternal life for all who believe in Him. The joy He experienced is the same joy promised to us in the hope of everlasting life. As we live in this world, we hold firmly to the joy of salvation and the peace of God's promises.

KEY POINTS

- **Eternal life:** Jesus' resurrection assures us of life with Him forever.
- **Peace:** Knowing we are reconciled with God brings peace.
- **Community:** Being united in Christ, we share fellowship and joy with other believers.
- **Purpose:** Our lives gain purpose when we live for God and His glory.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, we thank You for the joy that comes from following You. May we find joy in Your promises and be strengthened by the hope of life eternal. Amen.

ACTIVITIES

- **Morning devotion:** Read Hebrews 12:2 and discuss the joy we have in Christ.
- **Classroom:** Explore the theme of Christian joy through Bible verses and art.
- **Chapel:** Celebrate with hymns and Scripture readings that express joy in the Lord's salvation.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng" (LSB 813) –

This hymn is a joyful expression of the hope and joy we have as followers of Christ, celebrating our journey with Him.

RUNNING THE RACE WITH PERSEVERANCE

THEME

Encouraging perseverance in the Christian faith.

SCRIPTURE

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus" (Heb. 12:1–2).



DEVOTION

The Christian life is described as a race that requires endurance and focus. We persevere not by our own strength but by relying on Christ, who has already completed the race and waits to welcome us at the finish line. Through prayer, study and fellowship, we find the strength to keep our faith steadfast and our eyes fixed on Jesus.

KEY POINTS

- **Endurance:** Faith requires endurance through trials, supported by God's strength.
- **Focus on Christ:** Fixing our eyes on Jesus helps us avoid distractions.
- **Trust:** We rely on God's plan and promises for our lives.
- **Hope of salvation:** Our perseverance leads to the fulfillment of eternal joy in God's kingdom.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, grant us the strength to persevere in faith. May we always keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we seek to follow Your will. Amen.

ACTIVITIES

- **Morning devotion:** Read Hebrews 12:1–2 and discuss how we can persevere in faith.
- **Classroom:** Discuss with students on how they can set their eyes on Jesus in their daily lives.
- **Chapel:** Close the week with a service on perseverance, encouraging students and staff to remain steadfast in their faith.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Fight the Good Fight" (LSB 664) –

This hymn encourages perseverance in the faith, reminding us to fight the good fight with faith in Christ as our strength.