

Starting Line

We are the body!

Run the Race!

Don't Quit!

Can Do Attitude!



LIVING on PURPOSE



CHRIST in US



mountainview
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Name: _____

teacher



Matthew 18

"It starts with a forgiving heart"

In order to prepare to run a race, the runner must put on his running shoes and line up at the starting line, awaiting the "go" command. We are told to put something on as well. Look up Galatians 3:27

CHRIST

Our relationship with God began with His willingness to forgive us. And it is important for us to start our race knowing that we need to depend on that very forgiveness daily. God's forgiveness covers their entire list of sins, we are so blessed that God forgives us and He calls us to forgive others. When we have an unforgiving spirit our hearts become full of anger and bitterness, a perfect opportunity for the enemy to come in and attack. But we need to guard our hearts so that we can stand against the enemy and win the race Christ set before us. Our hearts need to be clean and filled with truth so we can share Christ with others.

Qualifying Round

Races have qualifying events. A qualifying event is an activity used to prove an athlete is capable and that he meets the requirements. Athletes must qualify to be eligible to run the race.

Similarly, we need to qualify to run in the Christian race. Write what each scripture says we need to do to qualify to run in the race.

Romans 10:17 **HAVE FAITH**

Hebrews 11:6 **SEEK JESUS**

Luke 13:3 **REPENT OF YOUR SINS**

Romans 10:9-10 **PROFESS YOUR FAITH**

Acts 22:16 **BE BAPTIZED**

Name some things Christians should practice in order to improve as a Christian.

Jesus teaches us to care for those in need. To feed the hungry, to help the widows and the orphans. To spread the gospel and be the light in a dark world. We are so thankful for all of our MVCC Kids, for all the love and support you have shown our friends in Africa and answering the call to help those in need. To date we have sent over 250 Smile Packs (school and hygiene supply bags), have purchased 10 cows, 6 sewing machines, bought over 150 mosquito nets, put on 2 Vacation Bible School programs, provided a new roof on the homes of 6 families, have found sponsors for over 67 children and have purchased over 2500 meals.

For more information about the wonderful ministry you support visit www.cotni.org





CHILDREN OF THE NATIONS®
Raising Children Who Transform Nations®

MISSION (COTN–International): Partnering with nationals to provide holistic, Christ-centered care for orphaned and destitute children, enabling them to create positive and lasting change in their nations.

MISSION (COTN–USA)

To mobilize a movement of people and organizations and their God-given resources to raise children who transform nations

HOLISTIC CARE

In order to raise healthy, well-rounded children, we believe the whole child must be cared for. Children of the Nations emphasizes *holistic care*, addressing physical, educational, social, and spiritual growth in all of our children. We seek to create an environment that meets the child's basic needs, encourages their individual desires and passions, and promotes excellence in achievement.

Physical Needs

We meet our children's physical needs by providing nourishing food, vitamin supplements, medical and dental care, and sports programs that emphasize physical fitness. Whether provided through our family-style Children's Homes or our Village Partnership Program, our children's physical health is of utmost priority.

Educational Needs

Our children's educational needs are addressed through quality education (preschool through university), skills training for those geared toward vocational careers, and a Challenge Children's program for children with special needs. Education is key to raising children who will transform their nations.

Social Needs

Within each child is the desire to know who they are, where they are from, and how they fit into the world. We recognize the value of culture, therefore our children are raised by caregivers of their own culture, in their own country. Traditional ethnic music, dance, storytelling, and dress are encouraged as an important part of their heritage. By partnering with village or community leaders, our children grow up with strong ties to their communities. We also provide opportunities for our children (especially our orphaned children) to maintain connections with relatives or extended families.

Spiritual Needs

Through sound Biblical training, evangelistic activities and outreaches (such as summer camps and youth retreats), scripture memory, devotionals, worship, and discipleship, our children are introduced to Jesus Christ and taught of His love for them. Our desire is to raise children who demonstrate a vibrant and authentic faith in Jesus Christ.

How do I strengthen my forgiving heart?

1. **Decide** – You will never forgive if you wait until you feel like it. Choose to obey God and steadfastly resist the devil in his attempts to poison you with bitter thoughts. Make a quality decision to forgive, and God will heal your wounded emotions in due time (see [Matthew 6:12-14](#)).

2. **Depend** – You cannot forgive without the power of the Holy Spirit. It's too hard to do on your own. If you are truly willing, God will enable you, but you must humble yourself and cry out to Him for help. In [John 20:22-23](#) Jesus breathed on the disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit!" His next instruction was about forgiving people. Ask God to breathe the Holy Spirit on you so you can forgive those who've hurt you.

3. **Obey** – The Word tells us several things we're to do concerning forgiving our enemies:

Pray for your enemies and those who abuse and misuse you.

Pray for their happiness and welfare (see [Luke 6:27-28](#)). As you pray, God can give them revelation that will bring them out of deception. They may not even be aware they hurt you, or maybe they're aware but are so self-centered that they don't care. Either way, they need revelation.

Bless and do not curse them ([Romans 12:14](#)).

In the Greek *to bless* means "to speak well of" and *to curse* means "to speak evil of." You can't walk in forgiveness *and* be a gossip. You must stop repeating the offense. You can't get over it if you continue to talk about it. [Proverbs 17:9](#) says that he who covers an offense seeks love.

Let's Pray!

Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? Even if they don't ask for it or deserve it God wants us to have a forgiving heart. Replace the blank space below with their name and surrender them to God.

Dear God,

I pray for ____ and I surrender the hurt they have caused me. I lay all my hurt, anger and bitterness at your feet and pray that you take them from me. I forgive ____ just as you forgive me everyday. God I pray that you bless ____ and that if they don't know you yet they will one day. God help me to be a light, a good example to others so that they can see YOU in me. In your name I pray,

Amen.



We are the body!

1 Corinthians 12
&
Romans 12

Today we are going to work together to discover how to serve Jesus along with others. This is a special way that we can follow God's plan for our life. The cool part is that each of you will have a unique way of helping and serving others through the use of your spiritual gifts, the things that are important to you, the abilities, personality, and experiences that God has given to you.

Read 1 Corinthians 12

Every believer has at least one spiritual gift and most Christians have more than one. These gifts are activated or made available to us when we are saved. They are not something we can earn . . . they are gifts. This means that the Holy Spirit gives them to us, and He helps us to use them to serve God and others.

Discover your

SHAPE

Read Romans 12

This Scripture explains that just as our physical bodies are made of many parts that work together; it is the same for the Church. God designed the Church, His Church, the people of God, to work together. We each have different jobs that He plans for or wants us to do. What do you think happens when someone that is a part of the Church does not do his or her part?

Church does not work the way God planned for it to work without everyone's own special, unique S.H.A.P.E. Let's find out more about the gifts God gave us and how we can use them to bring God glory. Let's find our S.H.A.P.E!

Spiritual Gifts

1 Timothy 4:12

What are you
Spiritually gifted
to?

Hearth

Psalms 37:3-6

What does your
heart beat
passionately for?

Abilities

1 Corinthians 12:5

What are your
natural **abilities**?

Personality

Ephesians 2:9-10

Where does
your **personality**
fit the best?

Experience

Romans 8:26-28

What are your
experiences?

Look at these verses, put a circle around what we are supposed to do and underline what God will do for us.

Matthew 6:8-"Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Matthew 21:22-And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

John 14:13-And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

James 1:5-If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

1 John 3:22-And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Prayer

Go around and ask each child what they need God's help with? Ask the children if they would like to pray, or even if they would like to just say what it is they need help with. Nothing is too big or too small.

Make it personal...

"Dear God please help me to do ALL those things which are pleasing to You. Help me to...

Can Do Attitude!

I Can Do all Things Through Christ- Philippians 4:13 "He is the ONLY WAY!

Wow, Let me read that again to you, "I can do **ALL** things through **Christ** who **strengthens** me." What kind of things do you think that God is talking about here?

Do you think He is talking about, "Leaping a building in a single bound, or becoming invisible so you can sneak and take all the candy you want?

-Or do you think God is talking about, Doing **ALL** the things which please God, which God has told us to do in the Bible.

-It's not about our achievements at all. It's about Christ's achievement and a constant dependence on him regardless of one's station in life - good, or bad.

What do you think pleases God?

(help someone, tell the truth, forgive someone who has hurt you, listen to your parents, share your toys, tell someone about God even when you are scared too, etc).

-In Galatians 5:22, it tells us what actions please God: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

-Isn't it hard, very hard sometimes to do those things which God very clearly told us to do?

-So, what the bible verse is saying here is that God Himself will help us to do **ALL** the things in the Bible that He has told us to do!

-How do we get God's help? (We pray and ask God for help)

-I need God's help ALL the time, because I can not do everything that God wants me too. Like, this person was driving me crazy and being so annoying I wanted to yell at them, but I knew God wouldn't want me to, so I prayed and asked God for help to be patient and kind. And you know what? God helped me. I was only then able to be patient and kind.

My Top 3

Turn the page for your very own Spiritual Gifts Test, add up your scores and list your top 3 gifts here...

My Spiritual Gifts are...

1.

2.

3.

When we accept Jesus the Holy Spirit gives us gifts unique to us to serve and help grow the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12 gives us a list of these gifts.



Spiritual Gifts Test

This check list is created to help elementary age children discover their spiritual gifts as presented in Romans 12: 6-8 of God's Word. Parents - Read the following 49 questions to your child and ask him to answer by choosing one of the five following responses: Never (1), Seldom (2), Sometimes (3), Often (4), and Always (5)

1. I see things as being either right or wrong, good or evil _____
2. I love to work with my hands, and I'm good at it _____
3. I find great joy in learning _____
4. I love to talk almost all the time _____
5. Giving to others makes me joyful _____
6. I get great joy from accomplishing something _____
7. I get sad and angry when bad things happen to people _____
8. I am frank and outspoken _____
9. I find great joy in helping others _____
10. I love teaching people about things _____
11. I am very happy and have a balanced personality _____
12. I do everything with all my heart _____
13. I thrive on competition; I always want to be 1st or best _____
14. I look for the good in people and ignore the bad _____
15. I tend to be a little negative _____
16. I am usually shy and easily embarrassed _____
17. Its easy for me to speak and to express my thoughts clearly _____
18. I like to tell people "good job" _____
19. I am very imaginative _____
20. It's very important that my friends are loyal to me _____
21. I find great joy in showing love to someone who is hurting _____
22. I feel that I am right most of the time _____
23. I like helping others before I help myself _____
24. I have strong convictions and opinions _____

Paul speaks about finishing the spiritual race in 2 Timothy 4:7:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have longed for His appearing."

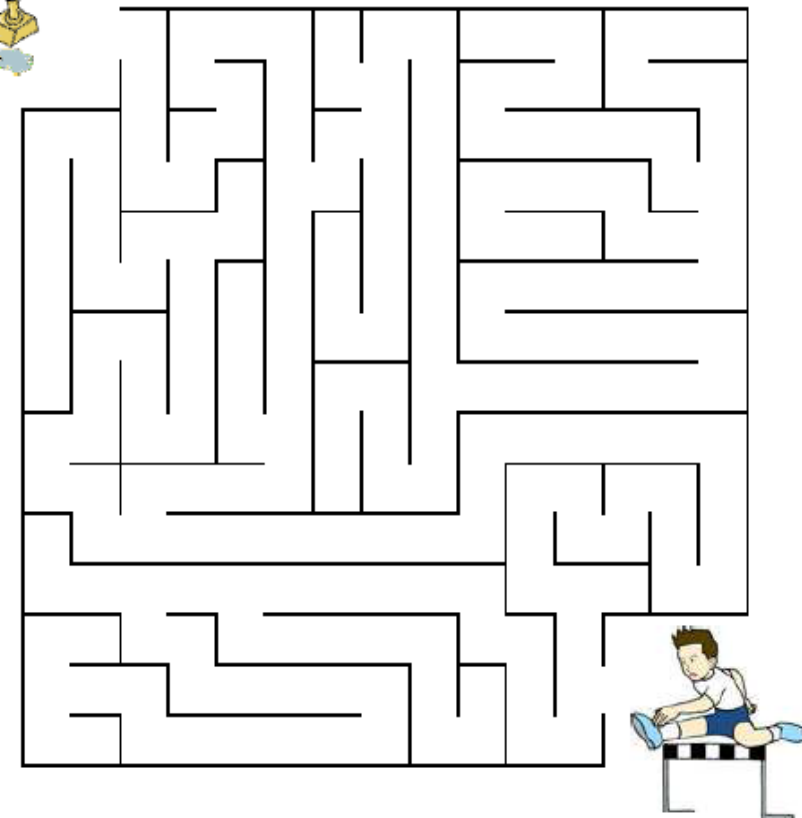
Christian Olympics



Overcome Satan's obstacles. Be a
Hurdle Jumper



Help Joey get to his prize.



**You ran well. Who hindered you
from obeying the truth?
Galatians 5:7**

We are warned in the Bible to be watchful and not be hindered in our run.

How sad to be like Demas and be so close but to not finish and lose your reward in heaven with God.

Let's Pray!

Dear God,
Forgive me when
I choose the
worldly things
over you and
help me to never
quit my race.
Give me bold-
ness to share my
faith no matter
what the cost.
Lord bless me
with your strength
when things get
tough for me. I
love you.
Amen



Don't Quit!

2 Timothy 4

Athletes require a lot of self discipline as we learned about last time, and even though they go through challenges they work hard to preserve and never give up.

Some people never even get around to starting important things. These people are called "procrastinators". Other people start lots of things and never finish any of them. This is because they are not fully committed to any one goal.

In 2 Timothy 4:9-10, Paul speaks of Demas as one who didn't complete his task. He served alongside Paul during his ministry and then he QUIT! During this time the disciples were being sent to jail for preaching, they could have taken the easy route and just quit but they didn't.

Paul never gave up, he preached God's Word no matter what the cost. He warned the disciples and used Demas as an example of those who will turn from their faith and follow the world.

Demas GAVE UP He didn't FINISH

Paul says that Demas LOVED THE WORLD

Demas didn't follow Paul's instructions on how to run to win.



What race is Paul teaching us about?

What do we need to keep?

FAITH

What is our prize?

CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Who gets the award?

THOSE WHO LONG FOR HIS APPEARING

25. I have a very positive outlook on life _____

26. I do not have a lot of friends, just a few best friends _____

27. I enjoy leading and telling others what to _____

28. I am eager to please and be obedient _____

29. I get angry when people break the rules and get away with it _____

30. I like to keep my room tidy and neat _____

31. I love explaining the whole story to people _____

32. I notice what people can do well and I tell them _____

33. I like to save money rather than spend it _____

34. I'm good at expressing myself; I love to speak in class _____

35. I enjoy peace and try to avoid conflict _____

36. I tend to be strong willed and stubborn _____

37. It's hard for me to say no when people ask for my help _____

38. I am very independent _____

39. I love helping people know how to solve their problems _____

40. I am good at making money _____

41. I am confident and enthusiastic _____

42. I find it hard to stand up and defend myself _____

43. I want to be obedient and feel guilty when I'm disobedient _____

44. I like doing really nice projects for people _____

45. I think I know more than many of my friends _____

46. I get along well with my parents, neighbors, and friends _____

47. I quickly help when I see a need _____

48. I love leading and organizing when I'm in a group _____

49. I prefer playing in non-competitive sports _____

To determine which gift(s) your child might have, add up the following numbers under each gift below and calculate your child's results. The gift(s) with the largest number may indicate your child's particular spiritual gift.

Prophecy (Perceiver) Characteristics – Discerning, judging, sensitive Add the totals for question 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 36, 43 total= _____

Serving Characteristics – Practical, observant, detailed Add the totals for question 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 37, 44 total= _____

Teaching Characteristics – Logical, systematic, factual Add the totals for question 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 38, 45 total= _____

Exhortation (Encouragement) Characteristics – Edifying, positive, expectant Add the totals for question 4, 11, 18, 25, 32, 39, 46 total= _____

Giving Characteristics – Generous, hospitable, resourceful Add the totals for question 5, 12, 19, 26, 33, 40, 47 total= _____

Leadership (Administration) Characteristics – Thorough, organized, responsible Add the totals for question 6, 13, 20, 27, 34, 41, 48 total= _____

Mercy (Compassion) Characteristics – Emotional, personal, joyful Add the totals for question 7, 14, 21, 28, 35, 42, 49 total= _____

Run the Race!

1 Corinthians
9 :24-27

The apostle Paul said that the Christian life is like running in a race. In this lesson, we will answer the questions, what is the Christian race and who is to run in it?

On your mark,
Get set,
Go!

Do you want to win? The apostle Paul gives us some good advice on how to run the Christian race in a way that we can win.

1. We are not to run **AIMLESSLY**. (1 Cor. 9:26)
2. We should discipline our **BODY** and bring them into sub-
jection (1Cor.9:27).
3. We shouldn't carry a lot of **SIN** (Hebrews 12:1).
4. We are to run with **PERSERVERANCE** (Hebrews 12:1).
5. We are to look to **JESUS** Hebrews 12:2).
6. We are to continue to press toward
the **GOAL** (Philippians 3:14).



Did you know?

Every game has people who:

- ◇ **Set the rules**
- ◇ **Competes in the game**
- ◇ **Judges the competition**
- ◇ **Gives the prize**

Who do you think does these in the Christian race?

Practice makes Perfect!

If you want to be good at something, you have to practice. Runners in marathons practice running for several hours each day, trying to improve their time at every practice. Archers practice shooting so they can hit the bull's eye. Baseball players have baseball practice. Pianists practice piano. A good student will look for things they need to improve on and practice those things over and over again.

Name some things Christians can practice in order to get better.



Receive Your Prize

In most races, there is only one first place winner. This can be said for those who work hard but do not win. The Christian race is very different: each person is rewarded by God based on his own works.

Who does God reward? (Hebrews 11:6) **BELIEVERS**

What is our reward? (1 Corinthians 9:25) **ETERNAL CROWN**

How long must we run to receive our reward?

(Revelation 2:10) **FOR YOUR WHOLE LIFE**

How and when are rewards given out? (Revelation

22:12, Matthew 16:27) **IN HEAVEN BY JESUS**

