



WALKING BY THE WAY

READ | GATHER | WALK



The Race Before Us

 **Walk:** Watch or take part in a running event in your neighborhood. If you're spectating, think of some ways to cheer on the participants especially if it's someone you know. If you're participating, think of ways to prepare yourself for the race. Ready? Get Set. GO!

 **Talk:** Read Hebrews 12:1-2

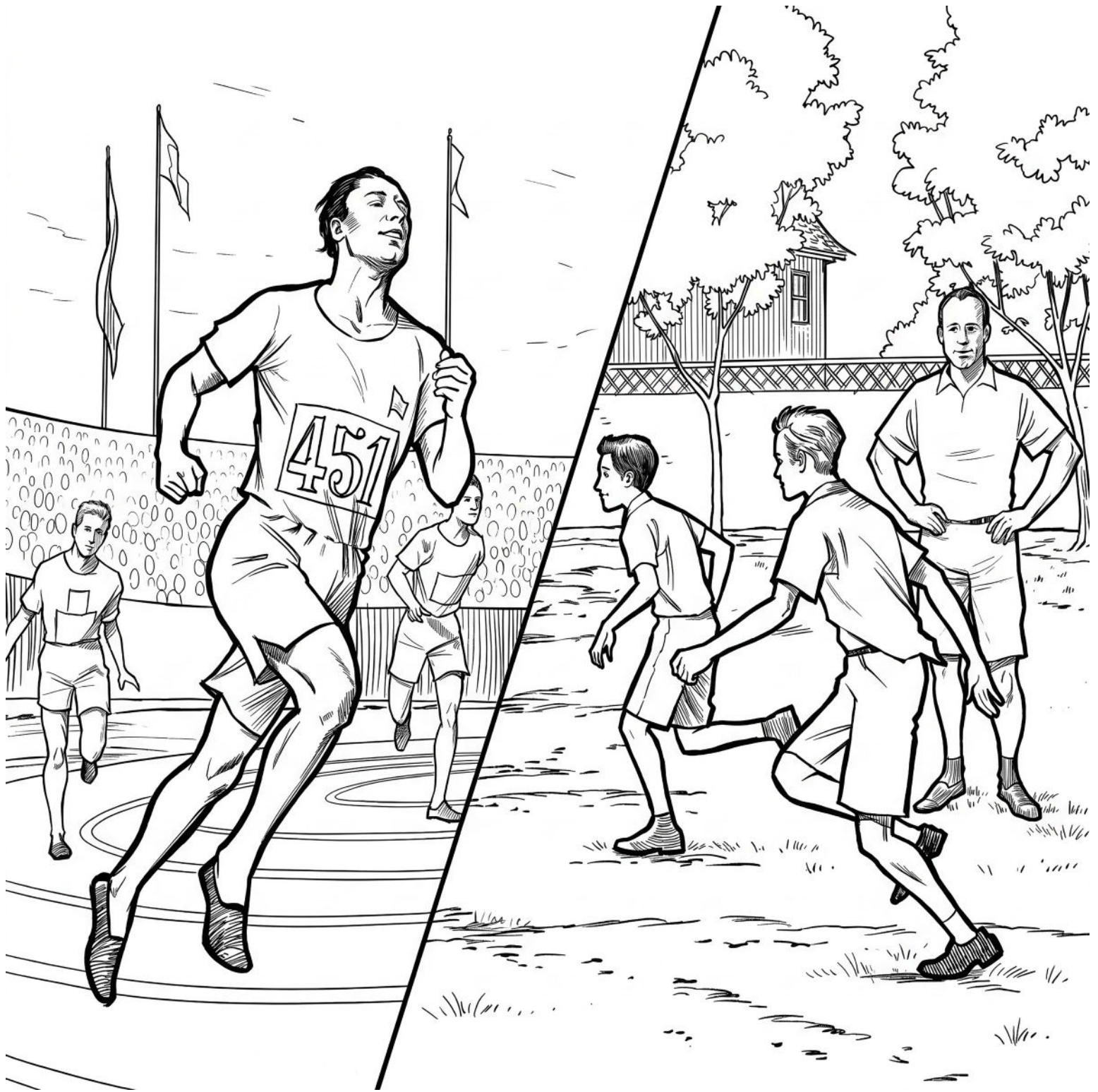
1. These verses use the picture of a race to describe our faith in Jesus Christ. The "cloud of witnesses" are ones who have already run the faith race ahead of us whose lives "witness" or testify of God's faithfulness. Look back at Hebrews chapter 11. As you skim over it do you see any familiar names? Pick one or two and read what it says about their faith race. Can you think of other witnesses from your family or church who are also part of that "cloud"? Share a little about that person too.
2. What would have happened in the race if a runner had to carry a huge weight? What does this passage say weighs us down or holds us back in the faith race? How do we lay these things aside?
3. Every race has a beginning and an end. Take a moment to describe those parts of the race you experienced. Who is at the beginning and end of our faith race?
4. Jesus isn't just at the beginning and end of our race, he's in the middle of it too! What has Jesus already done that encourages us in our run? Continue reading verses 3-6. What is God actively doing to help us in this faith race? Like race preparation, does discipline or correction always feel the best? What is God using in your life right now to help you endure in your faith race?

 **Pray:** Dear God, we know that without You none of us could begin or finish this life of faith. For us You endured the cross, shed Your blood and rose triumphantly over sin and death. We need You every moment, so help us to see sin and repent of it, help us to see distraction and turn from it, and help us to see You and follow in faith. Thank You for giving us examples of the faith like . . . Thank You for Your faithfulness in every step we take. Amen.

 **Sing:** May the Mind of Christ My Savior (Make sure to include the "race" verse)

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HEBREWS 12:1-2



SCAN FOR ADDITIONAL REOURCES