

Sermon Discussion Questions: July 12, 2026

Jesus, Our Intercessor

Sermon Series: Running the Race of Faith

Passage: Hebrews 4:14-5:10

1. When life gets hard, where are you most tempted to go instead of going to Jesus?
The sermon suggested that our instinct is often to pull away from God through distraction, work, entertainment, comfort, or isolation rather than drawing near to him. What does that tendency look like in your own life? Why do you think we instinctively withdraw instead of leaning in?
2. Jesus understands suffering because he entered into it himself. How does that change the way you think about bringing your struggles to him?

Hebrews tells us that Jesus is not only powerful enough to save us but compassionate enough to sympathize with us. Is it easier for you to think of Jesus as powerful or compassionate? Why?

3. The sermon challenged us to "hold fast" instead of giving up. What is one area of your faith where you need perseverance right now?

Whether it's prayer, fighting sin, trusting God in suffering, serving faithfully, or simply continuing to believe, where do you most need the encouragement to keep holding on? How can this group help you do that?

The throne of God is described as a "throne of grace," not a throne of merit. Do you actually approach God that way?

4. Many Christians live as though they have to clean themselves up before praying or coming to God. Are there areas of guilt, shame, or failure that keep you from approaching him with confidence? What would it look like to believe that Christ has already given you full access?
5. The closing illustration described a father carrying his son through hundreds of races. How does that picture deepen your understanding of the Christian life?

What stood out to you most from the story of Dick and Rick Hoyt? In what ways are you tempted to "run the race" on your own strength rather than relying on Christ, your Great High Priest, to carry and sustain you?