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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: Our lives are the sum of all the small decisions we make.

HEAD CHANGE: There are no shortcuts to the long journey of faithfully following Jesus

HEART CHANGE: Know who you are becoming

LIFE CHANGE: Don't grow weary in doing good. Stay habitually

stuck on the journey of following Jesus.

OVERVIEW

The Habit of Becoming

It is not difficult to get a person interested in the message of the gospel, it is however, difficult to sustain the interest. Millions of people make decisions for Christ, but there is a dreadful attrition rate. In the words of Eugene Peterson, "Many claim to have been born again, but the evidence of mature Christian discipleship is slim." In the Western Church there is a great market for religious experience but there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of Christian character. Little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called Sanctification; the process of becoming like Christ. This process involves learning how to implement healthy spiritual habits. But what stands in our way? That is what this teaching will discuss.

"...And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith."

-Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT)-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What is a positive habit you do occasionally that you would like to do consistently?
- 2. What is one new habit you want to start? What is one old habit you want to stop?
- 3. Use three words to describe the kind of person you want to become?
- 4. What is a "who" goal that you want to put into place this year? What is a habit that would help you reach it?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, we cannot do any of this without You. Thank You for showing us the places we can grow to become more like Jesus. Holy Spirit, we need Your power to break off old habits and start new ones. We pray this by the powerful name of Jesus, Amen.