



Lesson 001 - Matches

- **Day 1: Read Matthew 24:1-13**
 - Jesus paints a very scary picture of the future. Who is eventually saved (v. 13)?
 - Even today, men around the world are dying for their faith. How about you? Would you die for your faith?
 - Now read Mathew 24: 42-44. Why is it important to keep our candle lit and burning at all times?
 - Prayer: "Jesus, keep my fire burning today, even in the face of opposition."
 - Action: Don't read the news. Instead, spend extra time with God today.
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- **Day 2: Read Matthew 5:14-16**
 - Jesus says, "You are the light of the world."
 - Be honest. When you walk into a room, do people see Jesus?
 - Do you light up the room or darken it with your presence?
 - Prayer: "Jesus, shine through me today. Make me a bright candle everywhere I go."
 - Action: Today smile at everyone you meet. Look them in the eye. Give them your full attention.
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- **Day 3: Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8**
 - As you read these verses you may have thought, "I'm not a preacher. What does this have to do with me?"
 - Read the verses again. Slowly. What's the reward for perseverance?
 - Keep reading: Verses 9-18. Paul lists all the people who deserted and betrayed him.
 - How does Paul react? Does he whine? Quit? Renounce his faith?
 - Action: Is it time to contact someone who betrayed you and offer to forgive them?
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- **Day 4: Nehemiah 6:1-16**

- Nehemiah is on an assignment from God: rebuild the wall that protected Jerusalem from invaders, wild animals, bad weather, etc.
 - What's the last thing that needs to be done (verse 1)
 - How many times do Nehemiah's adversaries try to distract him from his God-given task?
 - What were some of the ways they tried to get him to stop working?
 - Notice verse 16: once the wall was completed Israel stood strong. Its enemies were left quaking in fear.
- Action: If there someone in your life who's distracting you from God's mission? What should you do about it?
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- **Day 5: Hebrews 11 through Hebrews 12:2**

- Hebrews 11 is the Bible's Hall of Fame. Men and women who were faithful to the end.
 - Go back through the passage and write down the names of some of these heroes and what they endured.
 - Warning: it gets very grisly toward the end of chapter 11.
 - At the beginning of chapter 12, the writer tells us to finish the race God has set before us. Do you see the finish line?
 - The final Hall of Famer: Jesus, who endured the cross and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - What's our reward for staying faithful until the end?
- Action: Take a marker and write on your palm: stay faithful. Every time you see those words, ask God to keep you faithful until the end.
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- **Day 6: Disciple your family**

If you have kids, turn off the lights and have dinner by match light. Keep lighting matches. The room will get light then dark then light again. Ask your kids, "What do we need to keep the lights on?" Have one of them bring you a candle. Light the candle and teach them about perseverance. Show your sons the pile of burnt out matches as a warning against quitting or giving up too easily.