

TANNER KRISTOFFER EVAN KELSEY MARIO VAN WITH MYKELTI AND FRANCES
STINE POLAHA HOFER REINHARDT PEEBLES WILLIAMSON FISHER

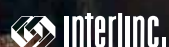
RUN THE RACE

ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS PRESENTS A WTA GROUP PRODUCTION A RESERVE ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION A 10TH LEPER PRODUCTION A CATHY EHL PRODUCTIONS "RUN THE RACE" TANNER STINE KRISTOFFER POLAHA EVAN HOFER KELSEY REINHARDT MARIO VAN PEEBLES
WITH MYKELTI WILLIAMSON AND FRANCES FISHER PRODUCED BY JENNIFER RICCHIAZZI CSA AND REGINA MOORE CSA WRITTEN BY KEVIN EDELMAN PRODUCED BY PAUL MILLS PRODUCED BY DAN O'BRIEN DIRECTED BY KATHERINE TUCKER COSTUME DESIGNER KRISTOPHER S. KIMLIN EDITOR TIM TEBOW BILL REEVES ERIC WEIR
THEY BRUNSON ROBBY TEBOW ERIC DELLENBACK JOE KOSAKOWSKI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DARRIN MOOHMAN PRODUCED BY JAKE MCENTIRE PRODUCED BY KEN CARPENTER PRODUCED BY JAKE MCENTIRE PRODUCED BY JAKE MCENTIRE JASON BAUMGARDNER AND CHRIS DOWLING PRODUCED BY CHRIS DOWLING
RunTheRaceMovie.com | @RunTheRaceMovie
IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 22

THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD.
THE LOVE OF A BROTHER.



HUDDLE COACH GUIDE



RUN THE RACE

Intro

Thank you, coaches, huddle leaders, and youth workers for using this resource to help you frame your talks geared around this great movie. Just as you would use playbooks (or outlines for your messages) to fulfill the goals you're wanting to achieve, likewise, we created this resource to help you achieve the goal of engaging, encouraging, and equipping students to see the plan that God has set before them for their life.

As you prepare, you will see that each session highlights a biblical truth that is illustrated in *Run the Race*. Godspeed as you and your students prepare for this awesome adventure! Our prayers are with you as you... RACE!!!

The Film

Run the Race is the story of Zach, a star high school running back with big plans on earning a scholarship to help him and his brother Dave escape their small town and their alcoholic father who abandoned them when their mother died. A busted knee threatens Zach's dreams of a full-ride to college. For much of the film, Zach questions why God would allow such tragedies to happen.

Zach's brother Dave was the team's quarterback—but had to leave the sport after a hit to the head the previous season resulted in seizures. He later joins the high school track team with his own hopes of a college scholarship. Along the way, Dave, with help from their godmother, holds on to the faith their mother taught them.

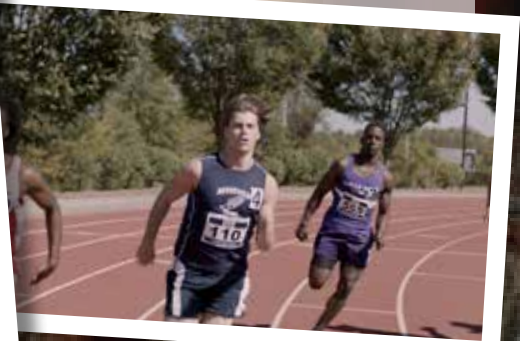
And Zach decides to stop running from God.

This Huddle Coach Guide

One of the film's producers said, "*Run the Race* is set against the background of high school football and track. It's about two brothers in a small Southern town trying to fight their way out of a hard set of circumstances. The bonds of brotherhood are strained but ultimately strengthened. It's a strong brother movie, with a redemption theme."

Tim Tebow's brother, Robby, is the executive producer of this film, and Tim himself has a cameo appearance in it. No doubt that many people will wonder if this movie is Tim's story. While there aren't direct parallels, Tim and Robby have a strong belief in the power of brotherhood.

Use the Tim Tebow Intro Video in which he says something like, "*Hey students, I am so glad that you are watching this video. This is Tim Tebow and I want to share with you why my brother and I put our whole-heart into this movie project.*" Then he shares the reason he's involved in this film, and encourages student athletes to use this resource to frame their huddles, youth group studies, etc.



FILM CLIPS

THE PLAN

Film Clip 1

Zach and Dave are making plans to get out of their small town and make a new life in college. In this clip, we get to see them making their plans for a better life—and better cereal!

“YOU’RE THE BEST THING”

Film Clip 2

Zach is reconciling with Ginger. After Ginger forces Zach to examine his belief system, Zach walks away ready to end the relationship. But, he realizes that Ginger means more to him than just a friend who always agrees with him.

FORGIVENESS

Film Clip 3

Nanny is teaching Dave the power of forgiveness. She talks about the change that occurs when we offer forgiveness to someone; especially someone who doesn’t deserve it.

FAITH IS BELIEF IN ACTION

Film Clip 4

The pastor is describing faith as belief in action. We can say we have faith, but until we put it into practice again and again, it’s merely words.

GOD’S PRESENCE IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Film Clip 5

Zach surrenders to God. “Why is this so hard? Every time I come and pray to You, it’s so hard. I did it for my Momma, and You didn’t help me then. And I don’t understand it and I never will. I’m begging that You’ll hear me now, ’cause I’m done running. I’m done running. If You want me, I’m right here. I need You. Just help me. Just help me. I’m right here.”



This Is The Day

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RUN THE RACE

PROMOTION IDEAS

You know how hard you have to work to get your message across amid all the other marketing noise, the din of social media, and the whiz-bang of YouTube. You'll appreciate that we've brainstormed a few ideas that you can use to make your youth group anxious to see this movie. Take a look.

Football Coach

Play up the high school sports angle – have a man who fits the part, wearing a ballcap and with a whistle on a lanyard around his neck, blow the whistle and burst into the group about five minutes after the leader has started giving his or her “talk” – the coach should interrupt, and shout a different coaching slogan each week. For instance:

- “T. E. A. M. – Together Everyone Achieves More!”
- “Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard!”
- “Victory requires payment in advance!”
- “There's no ‘I’ in ‘TEAM!’”

Use his interruption as an opportunity to talk about your entire group going to see *Run the Race*.

Flyers

You might be surprised at the numbers of “new” kids who will come to your movie event if invited by a friend. Make inviting friends easier by making up some flyers for your young friends to have in their backpacks, ready to hand out to their friends. You'll find a customizable template to use in the back of this Youthworker Guide.

Special Guests

Invite a different Special Guest to each of your youth meetings in the month leading up to the opening of *Run the Race*. Interview the guests about what they think makes a person successful, or how they approach their roles. Some ideas:

- Two football coaches from rival schools
- Two running backs from rival schools
- A school Principal – who brings the most recent championship trophy his school has won
- The President of the main school's football booster club

- A track coach – who talks about the similarities and differences between the sports of football and track

Social Media

Use the social media apps that are popular with your kids to send messages and images that might stoke the enthusiasm for this movie event. Start with some football- and track-related memes, and after a week or so mix in some info about when, where, how much, etc.

“Brother” Playlist

Use Needtobreathe's song “Brother” and other songs brotherhood-themed songs from the interlinc playlist.



TIMELINE

Too often youth leaders have a “ready, fire, aim” mentality when dealing with opportunities like *Run the Race*. The demands of youth ministry do call for much flexibility, creativity, and “just in time” delivery of awesome programming. The nature of teenagers means that we have to adapt, make do, and generally roll with the punches.

That kind of off-the-cuff ability works well much of the time – but sometimes an opportunity comes along that is too big, too exciting, and way too cool to let slide. Occasionally we are given a chance to create a ton of ministry effectiveness ONLY if we plan, prepare, promote, and perform with the best of our ability. *Run the Race* is just such an opportunity!

Since we understand youth ministry (being youth leaders ourselves), we’ve created this resource to help you make the most of the upcoming *Run the Race* movie. All the planning has been done for you – all you have to do is make this strategy happen. Easy!

Now

- ❑ *Become an “Insider”* – Go to rtryouth.com if you haven’t already signed up to be an “Insider.” You’ll receive all kinds of practical resources that will help you make the most of this movie opportunity.
- ❑ Determine when you’ll take your group to the movie – Many youth leaders will want to take their groups to see *Run the Race* on the Friday night of the film’s opening weekend. Or, take the group on a Saturday night, which makes a compelling reason for the kids to come to your Sunday morning follow-up program. Either way, plan your show date, and then back-fill all the ideas listed below.

Early January

- ❑ *Tim Tebow Video* – Tim has a strong interest in this film, and he wants to help you motivate your group to take advantage of it to reach their not-yet-Christian friends. He’s made a short video greeting that you can show your group. – and send out on all your social media channels. Cool stuff!

- ❑ *Show the Trailer* – It will introduce your students know to the film, and give you a chance to encourage your kids to invite their unchurched friends to attend a showing of the movie with them.

Six Weeks Out

(the second week in January)

- ❑ *Start Praying* – Have your students identify two “I wanna ask ‘em” friends that your church’s prayer team can start praying for.
- ❑ *Start Promoting* – Place movie posters in the best places and have lots of flyers available. (A template is included in these materials.)
- ❑ *Show the Trailer* – The more that your students know about the film, the more likely they will be to invite their unchurched friends to attend a showing of the movie with them.

Four Weeks Out

(the fourth week in January)

- ❑ *Keep Praying* – Your church’s prayer team could plan a prayer chain to be in action during your *Run the Race* movie showing and event.

- ❑ *Keep Promoting* – Bring back the Tim Tebow video, send out memes based on the movie to all of your social media channels, and have the “Football Coach” start showing up to your youth meetings!

- ❑ *Start Selling Tickets* – Do what some professional sports teams do and sell only pairs of tickets. That way you’ll encourage your students to take an unchurched friend with them to the movie.

- ❑ *Show Tim Tebow Countdown Video* “Four weeks til we’re going to *Run the Race*!”

- ❑ *Show the Trailer* – The more that your students know about the film, the more likely they will be to invite their unchurched friends to attend a showing of the movie with them.

- ❑ *Share the “BROTHERS” Playlist* – Text it to all your students, share it on your social posts. Ask your students to follow it and share it with their friends



RUN THE RACE

Three Weeks Out

(the last week of January)

- ❑ *Keep Praying* – Your church's prayer team could plan a prayer chain to be in action during your *Run The Race* movie showing and event.
- ❑ *Keep Promoting* – Encourage your students to use social media to tell their friends about the movie. Keep sending out those emails and handing out those flyers. Have a *Run the Race* insert about your event placed in your church's bulletin, and ask to make an announcement from the pulpit during your church's services.
- ❑ *Keep Selling Tickets* – By now you should have an idea if you need to reserve even more seats for the showing at the theater.
- ❑ *Announce Special Meeting* – Make a big deal out of the pre-movie session you'll be having at your regular youth group meeting time.
- ❑ *Show Tim Tebow Countdown Video* "Three weeks til we're going to *Run the Race*!"
- ❑ *Show The Trailer* – The more that your students know about the film, the more likely they will be to invite their unchurched friends to attend a showing of the movie with them.
- ❑ *Share the "BROTHERS" Playlist* – Text it to all your students, share it on your social posts. Ask your students to follow it and share it with their friends.

Two Weeks Out

(the first week of February)

- ❑ *Keep Promoting* – The more that your students know about the film, the more likely they will be to invite their

unchurched friends to attend a showing of the movie with them.

- ❑ *Keep praying for the kids, promoting the movie, and selling tickets.*
- ❑ *Show Tim Tebow Countdown Video* "Two weeks til we're going to see *Run the Race*!"
- ❑ *Show the Tim Tebow Video* – Take advantage of his popularity to lend some excitement and meaning to seeing a movie at the theater.
- ❑ *Share the "BROTHERS" Playlist* – Text it to all your students, share it on your social posts. Ask your students to follow it and share it with their friends

One Week Out

(the second week of February)

- ❑ *Pre-Movie RTR-themed Meeting* – Use the first Leader Guide and Student Guide included with this material. It uses a clip from the film.
- ❑ *Finalize Transportation* – Make sure you have enough vehicles, drivers, and all the materials you plan to have in each vehicle.
- ❑ *Confirm Tickets* – Make sure you have ordered enough to handle inevitable last-minute additions.
- ❑ *Show Tim Tebow Countdown Video* "One week til we're going to *Run the Race*!"
- ❑ *Show the third Tim Tebow Video (TBD)* – Take advantage of his popularity to lend some excitement and meaning to seeing a movie at the theater.
- ❑ *Keep praying for the kids, promoting the movie, and selling tickets.*
- ❑ *Share the "BROTHERS" Playlist* – Text it to all your students, share it on your social posts. Ask your students to follow it and share it with their friends.

Movie Week

(the third week of February)

- ❑ *Show Tim Tebow Countdown Video* "This is THE WEEK we're going to 'Run the Race'!"
- ❑ *Show the Tim Tebow Video* – Take advantage of his popularity to lend some excitement and meaning to seeing a movie at the theater.
- ❑ *Reconfirm Transportation* – Make sure you have one or two cars on standby in case you have a lot of "walk ups" – kids who just "show up" to see the movie and who you had no idea were coming.
- ❑ *Reconfirm Ticket Count* – See "Reconfirm Transportation" – You're better off having a few too many tickets than too few.
- ❑ *After-Movie Discussion* – A complete guide is included in these materials. Just after seeing a movie is the best time to talk about it!

Sunday Morning After the Film

- ❑ *Follow-Up Meeting* – Use the Leader Guide and Student Guide included with this material.
- ❑ *Within 24 hours* – Have your volunteer leaders personally contact each student who attended the movie showing.



WEEK ONE: IT'S HAPPENING!

Theme

God's Plan, Perseverance

Ready

Proverbs 16:9 – *The heart of a man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.*

Set

There are many things that motivate a person to make plans for their lives. Sometimes it's a natural talent or hard work at a skill. Other times it's the pain of a current situation that moves us to something better. It could even be the example of another person who has "made it" and we want to experience what they've experienced.

Regardless of the motivation, the thought of the future can be both scary and exciting. There are so many unknowns and variables. If we can stay the course, the plan can be realized. But, what if the course throws us some unexpected or challenging obstacles?

At the beginning of the movie, Zach and Dave are making plans to get out of their small town and make a new life in college. In this clip, we get to see them making their plans for a better life—and better cereal!

Show Film Clip 1.

Throughout the movie, however, both boys are presented with all kinds of challenges, setbacks, and struggles in their pursuit of "the plan." In the end, the plan has changed, but the one thing that didn't change was God's plan to pursue these guys into a deeper relationship with Himself and with those around them.

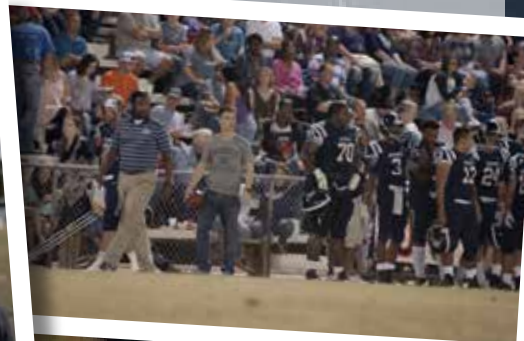
In our pursuit of a dream or a better life, it's easy to push God out. But, we must remember that whatever plan we may be pursuing, God is right in the middle of it, working a plan of His own. In the bigger picture of our lives, God is shaping us into more Christlikeness and deeper intimacy with Himself.

When we understand that God's purposes for us include eternal life, we can pursue our earthly dreams with a renewed sense of purpose. When we see that the steps of our lives are preparing us for the eternal life, we will experience a "peace in the process" of pursuing our earthly dreams. That helps us become overcomers when the steps to the dream don't exactly go as planned.

Trust God to guide you through the process of pursuing your dream and let Him teach you and shape you daily as you walk with Him.

Go

- What dreams are you chasing right now?
- Why is that dream so important to you?
- What kinds of setbacks have you experienced in pursuit of that dream?
- Have you been forced to change your plans? Why or why not?
- What could God be trying to change in you or get you to see in those setbacks?
- How could that make you more like Christ or draw you closer to God?



RUN THE RACE

Prayer

"Lord, help me see Your hand at work as I pursue this goal in my life. Give me the strength to overcome challenges and accept the new directions You may lead me. Help me not to fight against You as You shape me to become more and more like Jesus. Amen."

Workout

• **Proverbs 19:21** – *Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.*

• **Jeremiah 29:11** – *"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "Plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*



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WEEK TWO: YOU'RE THE BEST THING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME

Theme

Relationships; Friendship; Support

Ready

Genesis 50:20 – *As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*

Set

No matter what you do with your life, there's nowhere you'll go that won't involve relationships with people. You're going to need coaches, mentors, bosses, and friends to get you where you need to go. You may find a spouse that will make you part of his or her goal for life and the two of you will encourage each other along the path. There's no escaping it; relationships are necessary for life.

So, why don't we do the hard work to strengthen these relationships we've been given? God has placed certain people in our lives, and each of those people are playing a role to move us toward Him. It's easy to

see how God uses people we love and respect. But, what about those people who are difficult or have caused us tremendous pain? Our attitude tends to be one of clinging to those we love and running from those we hate.

Show Film Clip 2.

In the clip, Zach is reconciling with Ginger. After Ginger forces Zach to examine his belief system, Zach walks away ready to end the relationship. But, he realizes that Ginger means more to him than just a friend who always agrees with him. Throughout this movie, Zach is forced to deal with relationships that challenge him. From his absent father, to his God-loving brother, to even God himself, Zach comes to recognize that these people hold the keys to a life that's more fulfilling and purposeful.

It is difficult to see in the moment, but God is moving you toward being more like Christ and He's doing it, oftentimes, through the people that cause us the most pain.

James challenged us in **James 1:2-4** to stop and consider the prospect that facing hardship and pain is a good thing. Is it possible that those moments and those difficult people are tools that God is using to move us toward a spiritually mature life that is fulfilling and doesn't miss out on anything?

Go

- What kinds of things have you learned from the difficult people in your life?
- How have you seen pain as a benefit to you? On the playing field? In relationships? In life in general?
- Describe some people that you once thought of as "a pain" but are now key players in your life. How have they helped you grow?
- What relationships could you begin to strengthen that have been off your radar up to this point? (a parent, an ex-friend, a teacher)



RUN THE RACE

Prayer

"God, help me see that every person You've placed in my life has taught me something valuable. Help me recognize those people that I need to forgive, that I need to seek forgiveness, or I need to thank for the things they've helped shape in me. Allow me to be teachable in the relationships You bring into my life. Amen."

Workout

Proverbs 27:17 – *As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens another.*



WEEK THREE: INEXCUSABLE, BUT FORGIVABLE

Theme

Forgiveness

Ready

Matthew 6:12 ...and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

Set

Many high school sports teams recite The Lord's Prayer before or after a game. It is a model given to us by Jesus to help teach us to pray. So, we would be wise to pay attention to the different elements of this prayer. One statement that Jesus makes in the prayer is found in our verse today. It is a request that God would forgive us in the same way we have offered forgiveness to others.

Shouldn't we be afraid to pray that prayer?! If God forgave us the same way we freely and consistently forgave others, we'd be in serious trouble! But, God does offer forgiveness freely and consistently. The

challenge is to be as free with our forgiveness as God is with His.

God knows the freedom and renewed strength we receive when we forgive another person. Refusing to forgive another person feels like a punishment we are offering to that person, but in reality, it enslaves us to that person.

Show Film Clip 3.

In the scene we just watched, Nanny is teaching Dave the power of forgiveness. She talks about the change that occurs when we offer forgiveness to someone; especially someone who doesn't deserve it. That change not only affects the relationship we have with the person, but it also changes us. It softens our hearts to hurts around us, it helps us see the hurts that the person who wronged us is experiencing, and it deepens the relationship we had with that person. We experience compassion, love, and sympathy – all the things that help us look more like Christ.

Go

- Why do you think Jesus spent so much time teaching on forgiveness?
- What's the difference between forgiving someone and excusing their behavior? How do you separate those two?
- Do you believe that the more we love someone, the harder it is to forgive them when they've wronged us?
- What types of change and freedom could you experience if you offered forgiveness to those who've wronged you?



RUN THE RACE

Prayer

“Lord, forgiving people that have wronged me is very difficult to do. Give me the strength and the drive to actively pursue those people and offer forgiveness without excusing their actions. Help me be as free with offering forgiveness to others as you are with me. Amen.”

Workout

Luke 17:1-4 – *Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks for forgiveness, you must forgive.*



WEEK FOUR: FAITH IS OUR HOMEWORK

Theme

Faith

Ready

Romans 10:13 – *If you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

Set

No one likes homework—you know, that stuff the teacher gives you after class that’s designed to help you practice what you’ve supposedly just learned. I remember in math class the teacher taking 15 minutes to explain a new equation to us, then she’d assign mountains of problems to solve. It seemed like it would never end. But, I’ll admit, by the time I was done with the homework, I had the equation down pretty well.

As athletes, you can see this played out in the constant repetition of sports. You run a play, swing a bat, or run a dance routine over and over until it’s like breathing. The repetition is never fun, but the results can be pretty amazing!

In the movie clips today, the scenes give us two pictures of what true faith looks like. In one scene, the pastor is describing faith as belief in action. We can say we have faith, but until we put it into practice again and again (like homework), it’s merely words. In the second scene, Zach comes to a crisis of belief and surrenders his life to Christ. In a brief moment, he goes from doubt to belief by stepping out into faith and proclaiming to God “I’m done running... I need you.”

Show Film Clips 4 and 5.

Taking that step is hard. But, to those who do, the results are pretty amazing and hopeful.

You may be in a place right now in your life where the things in your life just don’t seem to line up. You’ve hit some hard patches – your relationships aren’t going anywhere useful and you’ve been burned too many times to count. Trusting people is hard. Trusting God is even harder.

But, the message of this movie is true. God does love you and has a great plan for your life! Regardless of the day-to-day setbacks and disappointments, God knows your deep desires and He’s at work in you to give you a life that’s unforgettable and looks more and more like Jesus every day... if you let Him. You don’t have to run away from God. Run TO Him!

Go

- What are the things in your life that you can trust?
- If you say that you can only trust yourself, is that truly accurate? Why or why not?
- What benefits have you seen from practicing something over and over?
- In what ways can a person exercise his or her faith so that it gets stronger?
- What would keep you from surrendering more fully to God’s plan for your life today?



RUN THE RACE

Prayer

(If you've never trusted Jesus as your Savior, you can pray this prayer)

"Lord, I need you. I've tried to gain Your approval and do things on my own, but have failed miserably. I am a sinner and I'm in need of Your forgiveness. I'm sorry for my sin and I need Jesus to save me. I believe He died on the cross for my sins and I invite Him into my heart to be my Savior and Lord. Thank you for loving me like You do."

(If you're a Christ-follower, you can pray this prayer)

"Lord, I want to grow in my faith and become more like Christ. It's hard following Jesus' example because there are so many distractions and disappointments around me. Help me see these as opportunities to grow in my faith and help me see Your plan for my life from a bigger perspective than my own plans. I know You love me. Help me to love people the same way You love me."

Workout

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 10:9-10



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IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 22ND

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WE ARE GOING!