

## Running the Race

(Matthew enters out of breath, panting)

Mary: Hi Matthew. What are you doing today?

Matthew: Right now, you mean? Breathing.

Mary: I can see that. I meant what have you been doing this morning that you are so out of breath?

Matthew: I've been running.

Mary: Who are you running from? Is somebody after you?

Matthew: I'm not running from anybody. I'm in training.

Mary: What for

Matthew: I'm getting ready for the big cross-country race next Saturday.

Mary: Are you going to run all the way across the country? But Matthew, that would take weeks!! Is your mom going to let you miss that much school??

Matthew: I don't have to miss any school. I'm going to do it in one day.

Mary: Matthew, I know you're a fast runner, but you can't make it across the whole country in one day!

Matthew: I'm not running all the way across the country, silly. It's only 10 kilometers.

Mary: But when you said "cross country", I thought . . . Oh, never mind. Actually, I'm training for a race myself.

Matthew: YOU? Training for a race? I didn't think you could run even ONE kilometer!

Mary: Maybe not, but I'm planning to win this race.

Matthew: How can you do that if you can't even run one kilometer?

Mary: This is the race they talk about in the Bible, the race of faith.

I didn't know they talked about races in the Bible!

Mary: The Apostle Paul talks about running the race of faith in 1 Cor. 9:24-26. He says we should discipline ourselves so we can run the race to win.

Matthew: How do you run the race of faith? Do you close your eyes and hope you won't run into something? That would take faith!

Mary: No silly! You don't run the race with your eyes closed! Running the race of faith means trusting Jesus to take care of you and help you every day. It means doing what God says in the Bible and going where Jesus wants you to go all your life.

Matthew: If you do that you win the race of faith?

Mary: You get to go to heaven to be with Jesus, where you'll never have pain or sadness again.

Matthew: That sounds great! How do I sign up for this "faith race?"

Mary: By asking Jesus to come into your heart and be your boss. That's how you get started. Then you train for the race by reading the Bible and going to church to learn more about how Jesus wants you to live.

Matthew: Sounds awesome! I want to go tell all my friends about the race of faith. Do you want to come with me?

Mary: Sure! Let's go!

(Both exit)