

THE RACE

By Rod

This sketch is based on Hebrews 12 vv 1&2 in which the Christian life is likened to a race.

CAST [N.B. This version is cast for girls but it would be easy to write a 'boys' version with a little suitable editing]

Narrator 1 Male or female

Narrator 2 Male or female

JC Symbolise Jesus

A Posh and arrogant

B Friend of A. Similar to her.

C Timid

D

E

F

G,H, etc

Narr 1 Hello, ladies and gentlemen. Meet JC. *[JC bounds on to stage and generally flexes muscles, etc]* JC is strong. JC is fit. JC has the perfect physique.

Narr 2 It is the week of the cross-country race and JC is the clear favourite to win.

Narr 1 But it is a team event. To claim the prize she needs some teammates to run with her.

Narr 2 So she starts trying to recruit her team. *[Rest of cast enter]*

JC Hi guys. You know it's the cross-country run next week. I need to get a team together. Are you all keen to run?

A Run! Run? You must be joking! It is a scientifically proven fact that running is bad for your health. The risk of injury is colossal.

B Yes, and it is bad for one's image as well. It simply murders one's hair-do.

A Quite. And one can't exactly run gracefully. I don't know about you, darling, but I don't want to appear red in the face, gasping for breath and staggering around in front of *my* friends.

B Me neither. And besides, those tight shorts do nothing for my thighs. You can count us out. *[A and B walk off together to form a 'crowd' at side of stage]*

JC Okay. How about you, C..... ?

C Oh, no, I couldn't run. I'm not nearly good enough.

JC But I'll help you.

C No, sorry JC. Running's not my strong point. Er ..er ... and besides I'm busy next week. *[C goes to join A and B. JC continues to mime appealing to others who nod their assent]*

Narr 1 But JC did manage to get a team together who were keen to run.

All Team *[Chant]* We are good. We are ace.
 We are going to win the race! *[All exit except A,B &C]*

Narr 2 The day of the race arrived and JC checked out her team. *[Re-enter all team. All are in coats except F who has a coat and scarf and is also carrying a bag.]*

JC Is everyone OK?

D Oh, sorry, JC, I won't be able to run.

JC Why not?

D Oh .. er ..er.. I've got a terrible cough. *[Coughs weakly]* The doctor says I'd be mad to risk making it worse by running in this cold weather.

E I'm afraid I'm off games as well, JC. I've twisted my left ankle. *[Demonstrates – but limping on the right foot]*

JC But you appear to be limping on your right ankle.

E Am I? Oh no, it must be spreading. How awful. It's obviously highly contagious. I'd better go and lie down straightaway.

D & E Bye. *[They go off coughing and limping to join A, B, & C. All these start to giggle and point]*

JC Well team, it's just us. But we're still going to win aren't we?

All team You bet! *[Chant]* We are good. We are ace.
 We are going to win the race.

Narr 1 The runners took off their outer garments ready to start. *[All except F begin to strip off down to suitable running kit]*

A,B,C,D,E *[General jeering]* Call those legs – I’ve seen better on a chicken.
What a team of losers.
You’ve no hope.
I should give up now.
We’re nice and warm over here.
Etc

Narr 2 All that is – except F.

JC F , you can’t run with all that lot.

F But I’ll need it. It’s freezing today and the coat and scarf will keep me warm.

JC You’ll soon warm up once you start running.

F But I still need this bag. It’s got a water bottle in case I get thirsty and a mobile phone in case I get lost.

JC I’ll provide you with the water you need and I’ll also show you the way. Keep your eyes fixed on me.

F OK, JC. *[Takes off coat, puts down bag, etc]*

Narr 1 And so the race began. *[Runners line up at start]*

Narr 2 On your marks. Get set. Go. *[Runners start. JC speeds off into lead towards back off stage. Others follow.]*

Narr 1 *[Chariots of Fire music playing. JC reappears at side entrance and runs towards back entrance where she waits.]* JC was awesome. She sped off into the lead.

Narr 2 *[Enter others, huffing and puffing. They pause centre stage exhausted.]*
The others found it much harder going. And the crowd didn’t help.

A,B,C,D,E *[Jeering]* Boo. Give up you losers. You’ll never keep it up. Etc.

Narr 1 But whenever they felt like giving up – they looked up and saw JC ahead of them, encouraging them to keep going. *[They look towards JC who beckons them. They run towards her and all exit by rear entrance]*

Narr 2 The race was tough but finally the finishing line was in sight.

