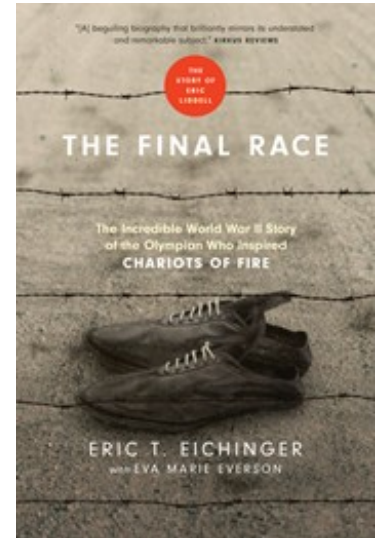


## The Final Race Discussion Guide

1. How did Eric's upbringing as the son of missionary parents prepare him for his own time on the mission field? What specific examples do you see?
2. Why did Eric participate in D. P. Thomson's "Muscular Christianity" campaigns? What opportunities did his participation in these campaigns bring him?
3. Think, if you can, of a time when following your conscience cost you something. What did it cost? What was the result? Why do you think so many people have found Eric's choice not to compete in his favored event in the 1924 Olympic Games so compelling? Do you find it so? Why or why not?
4. "The eyes of the world seemed to be on Eric, his faith, and his God, all of which would be unfairly evaluated based on his performance—particularly if he made a poor showing" (p. 43). Why was so much at stake in Eric's 400-meter Olympic race? Given what you've read about Eric, what do you think he was feeling as he prepared for this race?
5. Describe Eric's life after his Olympic Games win. How did Eric react to his fame? Does anything in his reaction surprise you? Why or why not?
6. How does the saying Eric picked up in school—"We must prepare in the days of comfort, for when the days of hardship come, we will be prepared to meet them" (p. 69)—reflect Eric's life? How did Eric "prepare in the days of comfort"? In what ways might you follow his example?
7. Describe Eric's early missionary work in China. In what ways was his missionary work similar to his life in Scotland? In what ways was it different? How did the actual work of missionary life line up with his expectations?
8. Describe Eric and Florence's engagement. How did they handle such long stretches of being apart? Think of an instance when you have had to wait a long time for something. How did you endure the waiting?
9. What effect did the threat of war have on Eric's family? What did they do to prepare? How did they work to weather the storm? Was what they did effective? Why or why not?



10. Eric and the London Missionary Society disagree strongly at several points in the book about Eric and Florence's assignments (for one example, see pages 156–57). How might you have handled these disagreements? How does Eric handle these disagreements? Why does he respond in this way?

11. Describe Eric's time in the internment camp. What was life like for the detainees? How did Eric react to his detainment? What evidence do you see of the author's statement that "this one man's light shone so brightly that when it dimmed, the entire camp felt the effects" (p. 235)? Why was Eric's presence in the camp so valued?

12. What did you know about Eric Liddell before reading *The Final Race*? What did you learn about his life? What most inspired you about his story? How can Eric's story help you in running your own race well?

