

THE CREED

THE FIRST ARTICLE (PART 2)

STORY

A sickly child, Wilma caught everything that came along—measles, mumps, scarlet fever, chicken pox, double pneumonia—while growing up in a family of twenty-two children in rural Tennessee. When she was five, she contracted polio and her left leg became crippled. Doctors said she would never walk again.

Her mother refused their prognosis. Determined, she took Wilma on a fifty-mile bus ride twice a week to the only hospital that served black people. Wilma was fitted with iron braces. When she was twelve, she took off her leg braces during a church service, boldly walking up the aisle.

In 1960, track star Wilma Rudolph went to the Olympics. She was pitted against the greatest female runner—a German woman named Jutta Heine. No one had ever beaten Heine. But in the 100-meter dash, Wilma won in world-record time. She beat Jutta again in the 200-meter dash.

Finally came the 400-meter relay. The first two American runners made perfect handoffs with the baton, but when the third runner handed it to Wilma, it fell. Wilma saw Jutta take off like lightning; no one could be able to catch her. But Wilma didn't know the meaning of impossible. She won the race, becoming the first American woman to earn three Olympic gold medals.

Discuss one-on-one or in small groups the following questions.

1. What did Wilma's mother teach her on bus rides to the hospital? *To keep trying and not to give up.*
2. What evidence is there that her faith helped her? *She took off her braces in church.*
3. From where does everyone get their physical, mental, social, and emotional abilities? *Whether people realize it or not, all our abilities and talents and even our life itself have been given us from our loving heavenly Father. He loved us so much that He sent Jesus to save us from sin, eternal death, and the power of Satan.*