



WELCOME

Whether this was your first small group or you've done this before, we hope your time together has been characterized by growth and change.

This two-week study is designed to help you end your group well. That may seem simple. In a lot of ways it is simple. But it's also important. As you'll see, how your group ends has a huge influence on how your group members will look back on the entire group experience. That's why we've put together this practical resource to help you navigate the final weeks of your group.

Ending Well includes video content that helps your group understand why ending is so important to the life and health of a group, as well as leader resources that help you initiate and facilitate conversations about ending. It also gives you some practical tools for working with your group members to create a plan for ending well.

This study is different from a typical group resource in two ways:

1. It's a two-session study, **but those two sessions aren't designed to happen back-to-back**. Ideally, you'll lead your group through Session One before you begin your final study together. Once you finish that final study, you'll come back and wrap things up with Session Two.
2. The real substance of this study is in the supplemental leader resources. Ending well requires more than a couple of group meetings. Between the sessions, you'll have opportunity for deeper (often one-on-one) conversations with your group members that will help you to create a practical plan for ending. The leader resources will guide you through that process.

Thank you for the time and energy you've invested in leading a group. And thanks for choosing to do what it takes to make sure your group ends well.

ABOUT THIS LEADER'S GUIDE

This guide is designed for you. It provides you with the resources you need to lead a helpful conversation with your group members. It's not a Participant's Guide. Your group members don't need to see it, review it, or do any homework.

HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS GUIDE:

- **Introduction and Wrap-Up:** These sections provide you with sample content for setting up and concluding the discussion. You don't have to read them verbatim, but it's a good idea to communicate to your group the content they contain.
- **Video:** Teaching content is provided by video. The video includes a host segment that sets up the session's discussion and provides context for why this conversation is important, followed by a teaching segment by Clay Scroggins.
- **Discussion Questions:** These questions are provided as a roadmap for your conversation. Because your group members won't have a copy of them, you can modify them or even add your own follow-up questions based on the natural flow of the conversation.

- **Takeaway Card:** This is a printable or emailable PDF to help remind your group members how to take action on what you discuss, and to encourage them to do just that.
- **Additional Leader Resources:** These are optional resources that may help you answer questions your group members have, guide them as they take next steps, or just create a richer and more helpful group discussion.



SESSION ONE: TALK ABOUT “IT”

INTRODUCTION

Communicate this to your group:

“Before we start our next study, we’re going to spend this meeting talking about how our group will end. I know it feels like we’ve got some time before we need to start considering the end, but it’ll be here sooner than we think. So, this session, we’re going to watch a video that explains why ending the group is important and then talk a little bit about what it looks like to end well.

“First, let’s kick things off with an icebreaker using the Story Cards.”

ICEBREAKER

Begin Session One with these icebreaker questions:

1. What are your thoughts about ending this group?
2. Do you have any concerns?

Story Cards

If you have a deck of Story Cards, skip the questions above and use this icebreaker exercise instead.

NOTE: If you don’t have Story Cards, you can purchase them at:

store.northpoint.org/story-cards.html

Follow these steps to lead your group through the Story Cards exercise. This exercise will help you gauge what your group members are thinking and feeling about ending the group. That knowledge can help shape the conversations you have with them in the weeks to come.

1. Spread the Story Cards out in the middle of the room so people can see them when they first walk in.
2. Ask each person to pick a card that represents how they feel about the group ending.
3. Go around the room and have everyone share why they picked the card they did.

Communicate this to your group:

“Thanks for sharing your thoughts. That gives me a better sense of what I need to do to lead us toward a good ending for the group. Now let’s watch this video together, and then we’ll talk about it.”

VIDEO

[Watch the video together with your group.]

DISCUSSION

Use these questions to discuss the video:

1. During the video, Teesha said, “How your group ends matters. It will shape how you view the entire group experience.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. During the video, Clay said, “The best and healthiest groups are also concerned with helping people outside of the group connect and grow with Jesus.” In what ways do you think others could benefit from your experiences as a group?
3. Is it difficult for you to believe that multiplying this group is beneficial to you? Why or why not?
4. What is a concern you have about ending this group? What can your leader and the other members of the group do to address that concern?

PRAYER

Spend time praying as a group. You can gather prayer requests from each member, but also:

- Thank God for your time together as a group and the way he’s grown each of you.
- Pray that the group is able to end well.
- Pray that you have helpful conversations in the weeks to come and that everyone begins to feel peace about ending.

WRAP-UP

Communicate this to your group:

“Thanks for having this conversation. It’s just a first step as we move toward the conclusion of our group. We’ll start a new study at our next group meeting. But I’ll be reaching out in the weeks to come to have some additional conversations. I’d just ask that between now and the end of the group, you pray for three things:

1. Wisdom for yourself as you take your best next step in group life
2. Wisdom for me as I try to lead us toward ending well
3. The people out there who need to be in community and who will end up being in a group with some of us. At this point, we don’t know who those people are, but God does.”



SESSION TWO: CELEBRATE CHANGE

INTRODUCTION

Communicate this to your group:

“This is the final curriculum-based meeting we’ll have as a group. We’re going to finish the *Ending Well* study by looking back at what we’ve experienced together and celebrating. The purpose of our group was for us to connect relationally and, through those connections, grow spiritually. I hope, as we wrap things up, our time together has changed each of us for the better. That’s why we’re going to celebrate change.”

NOTE: By now, you’ve had offline conversations with your group members. You’ve created a plan for ending well. Now is a good time to go over that plan to make sure everyone in the group understands and agrees to next steps.

“Right now, we’re going to watch a video about celebrating change, and then we’ll talk about it.”

VIDEO

[Watch the video together with your group.]

DISCUSSION

Use these questions to discuss the video:

1. What is one of your favorite memories from this group experience?
2. If you could go back and do one thing differently during our time together as a group, what would it be? Why?
3. In what ways have you grown and changed as a result of group?
4. How did the members of this group challenge you to grow?

NOTE: Before continuing to the final question, take a few minutes to point out the growth you’ve seen in each member or couple in the group. Be specific. Be positive.

5. What growth have you seen in the life of one of the other group members? How did that growth challenge and inspire you in your own spiritual journey?

PRAYER

Spend time praying as a group. You can gather prayer requests from each member, but also:

- Thank God for your time together as a group and the way he's grown each of you.
- Pray that the group ends well and that you're able to make space for others to enter into community.
- Pray that God brings the people he wants you to connect with into each of your lives.

WRAP-UP

Communicate this to your group:

"That's it. I want to thank each of you for how you've invested your time and energy in this group. It's been a privilege to lead you during this season. It's been great watching you grow in your relationship with Jesus, and that's helped me grow in my relationship with him."

NOTE: At this point, communicate clear next steps. How and when will the group multiply? Who is responsible for taking what actions? Make sure this session ends with clarity about what happens next.