



Finishing well is important. Some would say more important than starting well. We've all heard stories of individuals, groups, teams, or organizations that started well, but their finish was less than spectacular. Perhaps some of us have experienced this type of downturn firsthand. On the flipside, many of the famed and inspiring stories of our culture are centered on great finishes. In life, it is important (and often exciting) to finish well.

The same is true for small groups. Our small group "system" is structured so that there is a clear beginning and ending each year. One of the reasons we do this is to allow for natural, healthy entry and exit points for groups members and group leaders. Therefore, every group year presents an opportunity for our groups to "finish well", regardless of whether or not the group plans to return in the fall.

The following questions and points of reflection are intended to help you walk your group through the process of finishing well this year. Coupled with the "Finishing Well" discussion outline, our prayer is that your group will bring healthy closure to the 2010-2011 season, while looking ahead to the year to come.

Begin with God

Take some time in prayer to explore God's desires for you and your group. Ask Him to guide your thoughts over the coming days, as well as the conversation your group has in the coming week. Consider the following:

- **What is God calling me to as a leader? Am I to continue my leadership commitment here? Is God calling me to something different?**
- **What is God calling our group to? How does He want us to end this year? What path is He leveling for our group in the coming year? What are the steps we need to take from here to there?**

Consider Yourself

As a leader, you approached this year with ideas, dreams, and goals in mind for your group. Have you taken the time to evaluate each of those throughout the year? Part of finishing well means reconciling those ambitions in some sense because they will have an impact on the way you perceive yourself as a leader. Use the following questions to start this process:

- **What were my ideas, dreams, and goals for our group this year?**
- **Which of these have been realized? How can I give thanks and celebrate these victories?**
- **Which have gone unmet? Why? Will (or should) any of these be pursued in these final weeks?**
- **What have I learned about myself as a leader this year?**

Consider Your Group

The fruit of your leadership grows in the lives of those you lead. Think through the things that God has done in the lives of your group members this year.

- **How have I seen God at work in the members of my group this year?**
- **How can I help to facilitate that work in the coming weeks?**
- **As I look toward next year, where do I see God leading the members of this group?**