

Key Scriptures

“For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol’s temple, won’t that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge.” 1 Cor 8:10-11 NIV

“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” 2 Tim 4:1-8 NIV

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.” ACTS 20:24.

An important note: The discussion time for the last week of this series is intentionally shorter so that your group can spend extra time building relationships. Consider setting aside extra time at the end of your time to help people cement the relationships they have been forming. At the end of this study guide are several suggestions for how you might do that.

Build Relationships - *The goal of this time is to help your group bond together.*

- Consider starting with one of the following options:
 - Find a fun game to help people get to know each other.
 - Have some snacks and allow people to mingle. Provide an icebreaker question to help people chat as they mingle.

Start Talking - *The goal of this time is to help people ease into serious conversation with each other.*

- **Read 1 Corinthians 8:10-11**
 - **Question:** What’s your typical attitude when you’re starting something new, as compared to when you need to finish something up?

Watch Content - *Spend the next 10-15 minutes watching the teaching video.*

Talk about 2 Timothy 4:1-8 *Spend a few minutes helping your group reflect on the this passage of scripture.*

- **Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8**
- **Question:** What types of things do you think would have kept Timothy from finishing well? What types of things keep us from finishing well?
- **Question:** What are some of the things you think every Christian is called to?
- **Group Reflection:** Ask your group members to spend a minute reflecting by writing down their answer to this question on their participants guide: Pastor James mentioned that the first part of finishing well is simply to take the next step, meaning that when we find ourselves drifting from our purposes in Christ to recenter and take another step in the direction Jesus wants us to go. Consider the different things Jesus has called us to that we just talked about. Is there an area you have drifted from and need to take the next step in?

Leader Guide

Leader's Lesson Notes

Take Action - *Encourage your group to act on what they have learned today by taking one or more of the following steps.*

- **Say:** This week, pre-decide that you are committed to finishing well. You can live into this decision this week by...
 - Find someone in your group you plan to continue a relationship with. Call them this week and ask them these questions about their walk with Jesus. Make sure you answer these questions for them as well.
 - How are things with you and your family?
 - How's your walk with Jesus?
 - Are there anythings I can pray for you about?
 - Find a copy of *Finishing Our Course with Joy* by JI Packer. Read it with someone from your group.

Extra Bonding Time - *Try to create a space for your group members to lean into the relationships they have been building.*

- Consider doing one of the following options to help your group members create deeper and lasting relationships:
 - Break into groups of 3-4. It could be gender based, or just based on how friendships have formed in the group. Ask each person to share the biggest thing they are taking away from this sermon and small group series. What steps do they plan to take to help that realization become a reality?
 - Plan a get-together. Have your group brainstorm an outing or fun activity and then together, make a plan so that it actually happens.
 - Spend some time deciding together what your group plans to do for the next few months. Please consult the content guide found at 4fcc.org/gg-content.

Pray Together - *Gather prayer requests and find a way to have your group pray for each other. Either break into smaller groups or go around the circle and give everyone a chance to pray if they would like. You can close with the following prayer.*

Pray: *Father, it's often easy for us to start new things, but finishing those things takes perseverance. Please show us the things in our lives that You are calling us to finish. Help us refuse to quit—we are pre-deciding that we are finishers like You. In Jesus' name, amen.*