

# GROUP LIFE LEADERS

## ENDING YOUR GROUP WELL

Most groups don't last 10 or 20 years. Whether you are a short-term (6-8 weeks) group, a ministry group for a season or a community group—an end will come. Every group has an expiration date. Sometimes schedules become too challenging, and people seem to be disconnecting. These can be signs that the group is ending its time together.

Often leaders feel like they have failed when this happens. You have not failed. The group has simply reached the end of a good thing. This means it is time for the group to close and celebrate the journey.

Regardless of how long your group has been meeting, it's important to recognize when a small group has served its purpose and focus on ending well. Here are some tips to help with that:

### TELL YOURSELF IT'S OK

It is God's group—you never know what God has next for you and the other group members. Small groups end for various reasons, and it doesn't mean that you have failed or something is wrong. Try to stay positive and trust that God is at work.

### TALK OPENLY ABOUT IT

Ask the group what they think about coming to an end. Don't let it drag out. Have an honest conversation about where things are headed.

### CELEBRATE

If you decide to end, have a celebration party. Celebrate the journey you went on together, the memories you made, the prayers answered and all the growth. You have much to celebrate.

### OFFER NEXT STEPS

Even though your small group may be ending, we hope that all your small group members will be involved in a healthy small group moving forward. Make sure everyone in the group has a plan to connect to another small group soon.

### REACH OUT TO STAFF CONTACT

We hope you find these tips helpful when ending your group. Please contact your staff for more specific tips for your group. They are there to help and eager to assist you.