

Ending Well

 **GROUPS**

Welcome

Well done for making the decision to end your group well. The number of methods available to end your group are vast and can be confusing. This resource is designed to take the guesswork out of the who, what, when, where, and how of ending well.

This two-week study is designed to help you end your group well. Ending well for your group might seem simple, confusing, complicated, or altogether unappealing. However, how your group ends impacts how your group members will look back on the entire group experience. Ending well is important. That's why we've put together this practical resource to help you navigate the final weeks of your group.

This Ending Well resource includes video content that will help 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 provides you some practical tools for working with your group members to create a plan for ending well.

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.

We recommend you do Session One (6) to (8) weeks prior to the end of your group.

The Call to Biblical Community

At Rush Creek Church, we are convinced that the abundant life of a Christ-follower can only be found within the context of Biblical Community.

We see this truth demonstrated throughout Scripture in countless examples as God establishes different forms of Biblical Community at every stage of His church.

From the Israelites in the Old Testament being established as God's chosen people, to Jesus calling a diverse group of people to come and follow Him together, and then the New Testament church being sent out to make disciples of all the earth!

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" Matthew 28:19

God's plan for His church has always been to provide a place for walking alongside others in every phase of life as we follow Him together.

That is why we have created different forms of Biblical Community in two unique contexts:

Small Groups	A group of people committed to following Christ in Biblical Community.
Care Groups	Care groups focus on helping people find freedom.

Understanding Seasons in Small Groups

Since you have been part of this small group, you have likely experienced various seasons of life. What a gift to have a place to belong, be known, and be loved through every high and low!

Just like we go through different seasons in our own personal lives, every small group experiences seasons as well. Sometimes, these seasons can lead to a transition for some or all of the group's members.

As you navigate this transition together as a group, know that you will be supported every step of the way. Our leadership has carefully provided a path that will ensure each member has clarity, purpose, and peace about a plan moving forward.

Over the next few weeks while you finish your remaining studies together, your group will go through 2 main sessions with videos outlining a healthy understanding of small group transitions. Here are a few helpful practices to consider during this time:

- Pray: ask God to provide direction, comfort, peace, and unity during the transition.
- Share: be honest with your thoughts and feelings about the transition in humility.
- Remember: take time to celebrate what God has done during your time together.
- Commit: your small group may change or end, but Biblical Community does not.

"And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25

Quick Tips on How to End Well:

1

Planning to End: Invite your coach and groups minister to help make a plan. Communicate with your coach to develop a next-step strategy for your group and yourself. We will make a timeline for telling your group, how to communicate, deciding when to end, choosing a future group leader, and launching your next group experience.

2

Use our Ending Well Resource guide to plan your last weeks together as a group. Having these videos, guided discussions, activities, and prayer time will help make sure everything is covered. You can also check out our Ending Well for leaders videos explaining these tips on how to navigate the process.



[Watch Video 1](#)



[Watch Video 2](#)

3

Telling the Group: Intentional communication in person is the key to success. Choosing to tell your group in-person eliminates confusion and gives group members the best experience. There should be time for you to explain the decision-making process, celebrate all God has done in your time together, and open the floor for members to share testimonies and ask questions. Inviting your coach or groups pastor to join you will reassure the group members and help them follow through with next steps.

4

Taking Next Steps: Biblical Community never ends, even when Biblical Community groups do. At the end of your group, cast vision for group members to hold fast the value of community. Whether the group is disbanding or continuing without you, explain clear steps for the future of the groups or individual members. Work with your groups pastor to find your own new Biblical Community if you are not staying with the group.

ENDING WELL TACTIC OPTIONS

Tactic	Original Group		New Group
Leader Launches New Group	Future leader becomes leader, finds new future leaders, same members	➔	Original leader leaves, finds new future leaders, finds new members
Future Leader Launches New Group	Leader stays, finds new future leader, same members	➔	Future leader leaves, becomes new leader, finds new future leaders, new members
Core Groups Launches New Group	Leader stays, finds new future leader, some members stay, some new members added	➔	Future leader leaves, becomes new leader, finds new apprentice, some members follow, finds additional new members
“Turbo” - All Members Launch New Groups	All members are future leaders who start a new group individually or in pairs, leader starts new group	➔	Future leader becomes new leader, finds new future leader, finds new members

Continuing in Biblical Community

Even though your small group is transitioning to a new season, the call to Biblical Community remains the same.

As you step into this new season, we pray you will be bold to continue walking in obedience to the calling on your life for discipleship.

We understand that it is counter-cultural to step away from an individualistic mindset, sacrificing convenience and comfort for the sake of community.

But our call is clear, the reward is great, and God is faithful! Rest assured that the Lord will bring to completion the work He has started in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

We are grateful God has called you to be part of our church family. It is a privilege to partner with you in our vision.

"I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Indeed, it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, and you are all partners with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how deeply I miss all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, so that you may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God."
Philippians 1:3-11

Ending Well Planning Card

Coach: _____

Leader: _____

Ending Well Tactic:

Leader Launch

Future Leader Launch

Core Launch

Turbo Launch

Who is involved:

Leader: _____

Future Leader(s): _____

When Will You Inform The Group: _____

Last Day of Group: _____

I Will Follow Up With My Coach: _____

Coach: _____

Leader: _____

Ending Well Tactic:

Leader Launch

Future Leader Launch

Core Launch

Turbo Launch

Who is involved:

Leader: _____

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When Will You Inform The Group: _____

Last Day of Group: _____

I Will Follow Up With My Coach: _____