



Ending the Year Well

Ending a small group season well is just as important as beginning one is. The end of spring is a key time to stop and reflect as a group. Many groups slow down or don't meet at all in the summer, or individual member's schedules change. The end of the spring and the beginning of summer is a natural turning point in the life of a group, and a time when reflecting together on your group experience can be helpful and meaningful.

Below are some key questions to reflect on during this critical time of year.

Reflection Questions

What happened in our lives over the past year? *Think back and name significant events in the lives of group members that occurred this year.*

What happened in our group this year? *Reflect together on the conversations you had, what you studied, prayed about, and how you served together.*

What was hard? *Many people experience and share the challenges they are facing in life with their small group, but there may have also been challenges within your group dynamics, or challenges you experienced together. Don't be afraid to name these conflicts out loud, listen to one another, and affirm areas of common ground or ways you cared for one another through those complicated seasons.*

Where have you seen Jesus alive and working in the lives of each of your group members this year? *Take time to affirm where you have seen the people in your group reflect God's heart, extend generous love, or care well for those around them. Sharing the ways that God has been on the move in your group member's lives can be an important and impactful way for a group to end their year.*



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Looking Ahead

Make sure you have clarity on what your group is doing this summer. *This can be a fun time to meet in different ways, like taking a camping trip together or trying something new! Some groups stop meeting. Some meet once a month for barbecues. Some meet as usual. Make sure everyone understands what the plan is.*

Give people the option to consider a new group next fall. *We want to have both on-ramps and off-ramps to our small groups. We like to give people permission to try other groups at the end of each season. Every small group should have this conversation, even long time groups!*