

## **LIFE Group Leader Handout**

June 17, 2018

### **Called to More--Strong Finish**

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#### **Scripture--2 Timothy 4: 6-8**

*6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up 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 loved his appearing.*

#### **Main Idea--Paul's End-of-Life Lookback Validated His Life Choices--He Finished Strong**

#### **Review--**

Chapter One--Slaying Fear.

Chapter Two--Staying Fruitful

Chapter Three--Standing Firm

#### **Chapter Four--Strong Finish**

- **I have fought the good fight.** There are things in life worth fighting for. But make sure what you are fighting for has eternal significance. *Am I fighting for my rights or for what's right?*
- **I have finished the race.** Scripture testifies as to the necessity of completing the work God gives us to do. Don't give up.
- **I have kept the faith.** The choices and values of the gospel remain my belief and firm focus

**Don't be Hezekiah** A great life for God ended badly when he thought only of himself. *Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord that you have spoken is good." For he thought, "Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?"* 2 Kings 20:19

#### **Application--**

- Put yourself into the future for an "End-of-Life Lookback." Is the pathway you have chosen taking you where you will really want to be when you stand before God?
- Which of Paul's three affirmations is easiest for you to make? Which is the hardest?
- How relevant is the "Hezekiah lesson" for your current life choices?

## **REFLECT AND RECHARGE**

**By Suzie Nicolosi**

This will be the last leader handout for the summer, but it would be remiss of me not to connect with you before the summer break. I'm truly excited to be moving into the area of small group ministry - a ministry dear to my heart as it is to yours (or you wouldn't be leading a group ☺)! My background in small groups goes back to my university days when I was part of a fellowship group in my Christian Union. I attended a church in London for a number of years under a pastor who pioneered small group ministry in the church. I had the privilege to be trained by, and lead a small group alongside, him for about three years before God brought me across the Pond! I've been involved in LIFE groups since I moved here 16 years ago, and Lou and I have led a group for the last couple of years.

Cindy wrote a great article a couple of weeks ago with some suggestions about how to create a Sabbath for ourselves while still keeping up with our groups over the summer. I hope you've been able to read that. If not, I encourage you to do so. Not meeting regularly with our group doesn't mean that we need to disconnect. There are a number of opportunities to serve alongside one another in the next few weeks. June is 'Shining His Light' month and there are still ways to get involved. June 19th & 21st have been set aside for prayer walks in our local neighborhood. This would be a great way to get together as a group to walk and pray in the neighborhoods surrounding the church. Or you could join with young people participating in Youth Week to paint classrooms at Head Start in Huntington. Go to [islandchristian.com/community-serve](http://islandchristian.com/community-serve) to sign up for these events. Summer is also the perfect time to organize some social gatherings and simply enjoy one another's company!

We experience such a range of emotions as small group leaders - joy and satisfaction, but also, let's be honest, discouragement and disappointment at times. I am praying that the summer months will be a time of renewal and refreshment for you all personally. Enjoy the opportunities summer provides for extended family time, breathing space and the chance to reflect on God's faithfulness through the year, but if I can also challenge you (and myself) take the time to set some personal goals - maybe read that book that's been sitting on your bookshelf/kindle all year or memorize a passage of Scripture (you could even do this as a group).

We will be having an end-of-year Ice Cream Social on Thursday, June 28th at 7:30 pm. This will be the perfect opportunity to bless Cindy and personally thank her for her ministry to us as LIFE Group leaders, and also get equipped and excited for what is ahead. Please RSVP if you haven't already done so.

My email is [suzie.nicolosi@islandchristian.com](mailto:suzie.nicolosi@islandchristian.com). I'm here to serve and support you, and look forward to seeing you on June 28th.

Abundant blessings,  
Suzie