



PART 3: Game Over

INTRODUCTION

In the game of life, it's easy to find yourself down and heading into the bottom of the ninth. Sometimes you make a comeback. But sometimes life doesn't work out as you hoped or planned. You lose . . . and loss hurts. Where can you find hope when hope disappears?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you lost in some way, small or large. How did you respond? What did you learn from the experience?
2. We live in a culture that celebrates winners. What are some of the costs—cultural and personal—of not recognizing and admiring the strength of those who persevere through loss?
3. Read Acts 7:51–60. In what ways does Stephen's death (despite his great faith) challenge your assumptions about God?
4. *"How we live as we lose determines if we can be used."* Is that statement difficult for you to believe or accept? Why or why not?
5. When have you prayed for a *bottom-of-the-ninth* comeback in your finances, marriage, parenting, dating, or health, only to lose the game? How did that loss affect your relationship with God?
6. If you're struggling with loss right now, what can you do this week to fight, finish well, and keep the faith? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

Are you currently facing a *bottom-of-the-ninth* moment right now? Are you down and maybe even out? Pray this prayer:

God, while I do not desire to be in this circumstance now or in the future, I do want you to use every day for your glory and your good. Give me strength to fight for what you would fight for. If I lose the game, I pray that I will finish strong and increase the faith of others. I pray this in your Son's name. Amen.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7