



WEEKEND RESOURCES | APRIL 30, 2023

Week Three | Game Over

USE THESE QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PROCESS THE MESSAGE IN YOUR PERSONAL STUDY TIME OR WITH YOUR GROUP.

Message Recap: Have you ever felt behind financially, relationally, or emotionally? Have you ever felt so behind that you didn't know how to start catching up? The more time went by, the more you lost hope. These are bottom-of-the-ninth moments. But when you feel down, don't lose hope. You're never out. You can still turn the game around.

» Main Points

- Sometimes we don't have a bottom of the 9th comeback.
- You can be used even when you lose.
- Pray for God to use you rather than remove you.

» Getting Started

- Talk about a time when you lost in some way, small or large. How did you respond? What did you learn from the experience?

» Observation

- Read and reflect on Acts 7:51–53, 58–60
- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

reachout

- Spring is maybe making an appearance this week. Bring a packet of flower seeds to someone on your block to encourage them. Maybe they need a fresh start, maybe it's been a long winter for them. Write a note and put the seed packet in the envelope.

growdeep

- We live in a culture that celebrates winners. What are some of the cultural and personal costs of not recognizing and admiring the strength of those who persevere through loss?
- Read Acts 7:51–60. In what ways does Stephen's death (despite his great faith) challenge your assumptions about God?
- 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?
- "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?

partner with families

- Share as a family a time when you didn't have a bottom of the 9th comeback. Talk about how you felt and how you could move forward, even when things didn't go how you had hoped they would. Ask your kids to share about a time when life didn't go how they wanted it to, and assure them that God is still working in your "losses." If you feel comfortable, pray together that God will use these moments of disappointment for good.

» Next Steps and Prayer

- If you're struggling with loss right now, what can you do this week to fight, finish well, and keep the faith?
- Close by praying that God would give you the strength you need to finish strong, even when it feels like you are losing the game.