

Finishing Strong

Tommy Gray | April 17, 2011



In a nutshell:

Leadership can be difficult, lonely, and painful, and exposes us to temptations of pride, power, and popularity. In order to finish strong, we must have a significant mission, maintain critical relationships, and get up when we fall.

Icebreaker: During the service we watched a video of Derek Redmond and his dad at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. (You can watch this on YouTube if you missed it.)

Discuss: Have you ever had a significant personal success or failure in an athletic event? What was your proudest or most embarrassing moment?

How to Finish Strong:

Have a significant mission. Chasing after money, sex, power, cars, or rabbits are dead ends. "Love God. Love Others. Serve." is a significant mission that won't come up short.

Discuss: Do you have a significant mission? Describe it to your group.

Don't be a Lone Ranger. Moses had four critical relationships that supported his leadership: **God**, a **Mentor** (his father-in-law, Jethro), a **Team** (Aaron and Hur), and a **Protégé** (Joshua).

Discuss: Think about each of these relationships in your life. Discuss with your group how each relationship supports your leadership of yourself, your family, your business, and your ministry. If you are missing one of these critical relationships, what will you do to fill the void?

- A significant, ongoing, personal relationship with **God**.
- **A Mentor:** Who is your mentor? What does your relationship look like?
- **A Team:** Describe your team (family, peers, small group).
- **A Protégé:** Who are you willing to pour yourself into so that they can lead (their family, ministry, business, and community) more effectively?

Get up when you fall. Poor decisions and guilt from past sin keep us from Finishing Strong. Jesus provides a way for us to get up again, and gives us each other to lift us up.

Discuss: Do you need to get up after falling? Who will you turn to for help?

As a Group: Exodus 18 (Moses & Jethro) is one of the key passages supporting the "organizational" case for creating and maintaining ministry through small groups.

Discuss: Read Exodus 18 (use multiple translations if you have them.) What are the implications for the lead pastor of a church or CEO of an organization? What can we learn about organizing the leadership structure of a church or business?