

Homework: Endings

This session represents the last session for your covenant group as it currently is. Our lives are full of beginnings and endings. We will spend some time looking at the ending of this covenant group, along with other endings, with awareness, reflection, and appreciation.

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive at where we started
And know the place for the first time.

—*T. S. Eliot*

Endings are a catharsis. They give meaning to what comes before, and change us from the way we were.

—*Steven Winn*

Appreciation can give a meaning to endings.

—*Patrick Dawson*

It is when one first sees the horizon as an end that one first begins to see . . . Ends are the hardest things in the world to see—precisely because they aren't things, they are the ends of things. And yet they are wonderful. What would life be without them! . . . if we didn't die there would be no works—not works of art certainly, the only ones that count.

—*Archibald MacLeish*

The end of something is better than its beginning.

—*Ecclesiastes 7:8*

Beginnings and endings go together. We would like to imagine that our lives are a series of only beginnings, but the fact of the matter is that nothing begins without an attendant ending, and there are no gains in our lives that do not include losses.

—*Christine Robinson*

Questions to Ponder

- Do you remember a good-bye from your childhood? Who or what were you leaving/ending?
- Recall a good and a poor good-bye from your adult years. What made the good ending good? What made the poor one poor?
- What is something you appreciate about this group as it has been?
- What meaning do you make of endings? What follows the endings?