



by Shari Miller



On a separate sheet of paper, take two minutes and write down as many phrases as you can think of that begin or end with the word “final” or some variation of it. Share with a partner or in your small group. (Examples: final test or sports finals.)

Now quickly think of synonyms for the word “finally” and share with your group.

Perhaps your synonym list included lastly, at the end, or forever. Other synonyms for this word could be irrevocably, definitely, absolutely, or once and for all. We use the word finally or its variations often in our day-to-day language. How does God use this concept of finally in His Word? This Bible study will look at four such ways, in the light of our salvation in Jesus Christ and our lives as His children.

Opening Prayer

Dear Father, You are our Creator, O Lord! We are privileged to come to You in prayer as Your dear children in the name of our Savior Jesus. We confess that our sins have separated us from You and could have for all time. But, we thank You that You saw our need for salvation and had the plan to finally free us from that sin by sending Your own Son to be our Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Because He rose from the dead and lives eternally, we know that we, too, can finally look forward to eternal life in the glories of heaven. We thank You for

sending us Your Holy Spirit who gives us faith and the power to share that faith, so that we can finally be Your witnesses to the world. Please bless our study of Your Word. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Finally ... Dead

This is a sobering thought, isn’t it? The spiral fall of sin leads finally to death for all men. Sin is defined in the explanation to the *Small Catechism* as “every thought, desire, word, and deed which is contrary to God’s law.” (Question #78, CPH edition)

See the following passages to identify the origin of sin and the results of that sin:

Genesis 2:16–17; 3:6–7 _____

Psalm 51:3–5 _____

Romans 3:23 _____

Romans 5:12–14 _____

Ephesians 2:1–3 _____

1 John 1:8 _____

2 Thessalonians 1:7–9 _____

Jude 6–7 _____

What do the following passages say about sin?

Genesis 3:1–7 _____

Matthew 15:19 _____

John 8:44 _____

Galatians 5:19–21 _____

James 1:14–15 _____

Finally ... Free

Our loving God did not leave us to this final death and eternal fire but saved us through the perfect life, suffering, and death of Jesus, our Savior. Read the rest of our Lord’s salvation plan in **Genesis 3:15** and **Ephesians 2:4–10**.

What does Jesus say in the following passages?

John 8:31–32 _____

John 19:30 _____

Faith Talk

Share with a partner or in the small group what Jesus’ words “the truth will set you free” and “it is finished” mean to you. Be specific.

Read **Leviticus 16:34**. How long did God tell His Old Testament people that atonement needed to be made for their sins? _____

Now read **Hebrews 7:27; 9:12; and 10:10**. What phrase is used in these references that is a synonym for finally? _____

Read **John 13:1**. Why does this passage take on greater significance when we realize that Jesus performed this act of service, knowing that His suffering and death was soon to come? _____

Finally ... Live

Paul equates his life in Christ to that of a race. See **Philippians 3:14**. As Christ's followers and led by the Spirit, we are like athletes, living our lives to the glory of Christ Jesus. How does the Holy Spirit work in us to enable us to live God-pleasing lives? See **Psalms 119:111; 1 Peter 3:18-22; and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**.

What does the Holy Spirit enable us to do in **Acts 1:7-9**? _____

Faith Talk

Discuss with a partner or in the small group the implications for us, as Christians, of the following statement: "She lives like today is her last (final) day!"

If time permits

Read the following "finally" Scripture passages and identify what Paul encourages the New Testament Christians — and us! — to do in our lives with fellow Christians and in the unbelieving world.

2 Corinthians 13:11 _____

Ephesians 6:10 _____

Philippians 3:1a _____

Philippians 4:8 _____

1 Thessalonians 4:1 _____

2 Thessalonians 3:1 _____

1 Peter 3:8 _____

Finally ... Home!

Share the words of Jesus with each other as you read together **John 11:25-26a**: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

Because our Savior lives, if we believe in Him, we, too, will finally live forever with Him in our heavenly home. Read His promise to all Christians in **John 14:1-6**.

Read **1 Peter 1:3-5**. What is the believer's hope? _____

Faith Talk

Share with a partner or in the small group how the hope of heaven — the grand finale! — affects your daily life.

Describe the picture of our heavenly home found in **Revelation 21:1-7 and 22:1-5**. What will not be in heaven? _____

What will be in heaven? _____

As believers in our awesome God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — we can look forward to our home in heaven for all eternity ... Finally!

Faith Walk

1. Thank God daily for sending His Son Jesus to be our Savior from sin, death, and the devil.
2. Daily rejoice in the Savior's grace and the gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments.
3. By the power of the Spirit, share with at least one person the Good News of salvation in Jesus.
4. Praise and thank God for the hope of eternal life.
5. Pray for the needs of fellow believers.

Closing Litany

(**Revelation 5:11-13; Revelation 21:6; and Psalm 45:6a**)

LEADER: "Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads and thousands and thousands saying with a loud voice,"

ALL: "'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!'"

LEADER: "And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,"

ALL: "'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!'"

LEADER: "And he said to me, 'It is done!'"

ALL: "'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.' Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. Amen!"

Sing together "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise" (*LSB* #680) or "For All the Saints" (*LSB* #677; *LW* #191; or *TLH* #463).